SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

Volume 30:

My Lady Maxima

VISIONS OF GRANDEUR

"HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN."

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SUPERMAN

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THE RACER'S EDGE

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"THIS GUY DOESN'T LOOK SO TOUGH ANYMORE..."

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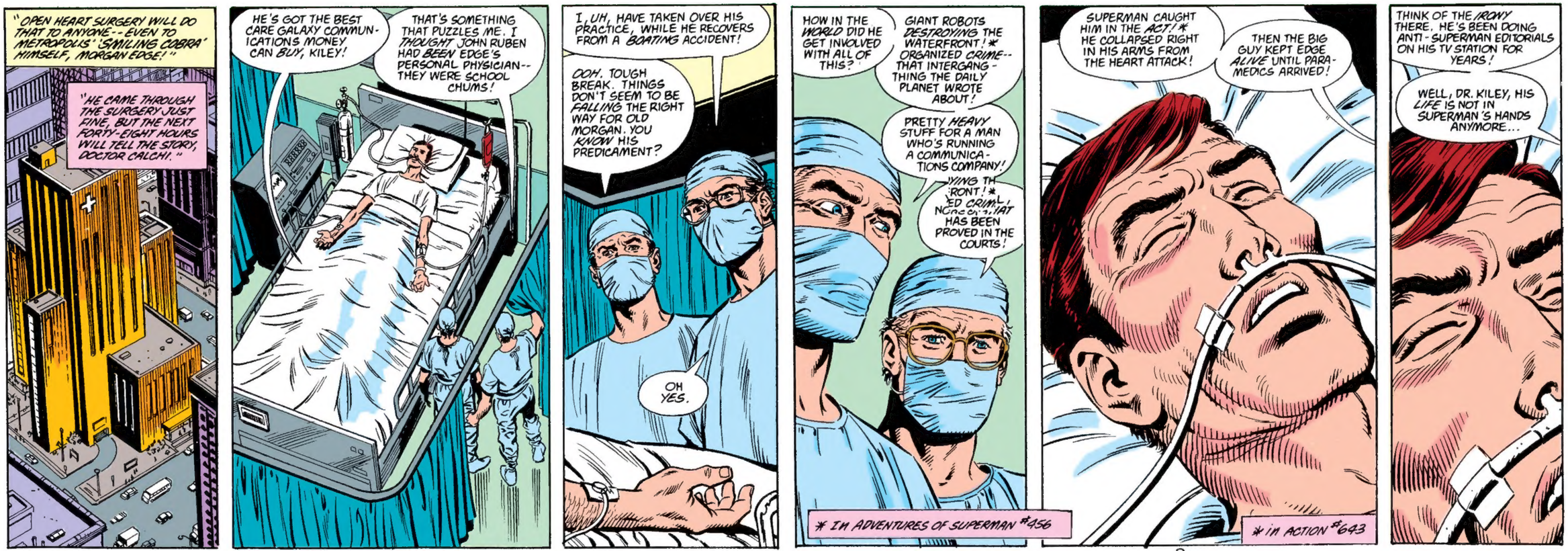
"THE 'AMAZING BRAINIAC' HAS BEEN WASTING AWAY EVER SINCE LUTHOR BROUGHT HIM TO THIS NEW R&D/NICS LAB."
I DON'T KNOW, DR. KELLEY, BRAINIAC FAKED HIS DEATH ONCE BEFORE TO GET AWAY FROM LEX-UH, I MEAN MR. LUTHOR...
...ALTHOUGH, WITH ALL THE SEDATIVES WE'VE PUMPED INTO HIM, HE CAN'T BE TOO COGNIZANT.
MAYBE THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS JUST DON'T AGREE WITH HIM!
DON'T BE FLIPPANT, HAPPERSEN. EVEN IN A COMATOSE STATE, I'D BET THIS CHARACTER GIVES OUR BOSS NIGHTMARES!
WELL, HE WAS SCARED ENOUGH TO ACQUIRE THIS FACILITY FROM S.T.A.R. LABS JUST FOR BRAINIAC.
ANYWAY, I THINK HIS PHYSICAL STATE OWES ITSELF ENTIRELY TO BEING FORCEFED A LIQUID DIET...
THAT, AND BEING HOOKED UP TO THESE COMPUTERS TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY.
AS LONG AS WE MOVE HIM EVERY COUPLE OF HOURS TO PREVENT HIS GETTING BED-SORES, WHAT DO WE CARE IF HE'S LOST A LITTLE WEIGHT?
IT'S HIS MIND THOSE COMPUTERS ARE SCANNING.
SO FAR, HIS HEARTBEAT IS NORMAL, AND HIS BRAINWAVES INDICATE HE'S ENTERING A DEEP SLEEP PHASE...


"OPEN HEART SURGERY WILL DO THAT TO ANYONE--EVEN TO METROPOLIS' 'SMILING COBRA' HIMSELF, MORGAN EDGE!"
"HE CAME THROUGH THE SURGERY JUST FINE, BUT THE NEXT FORTY-EIGHT HOURS WILL TELL THE STORY, DOCTOR CALCHI."
HE'S GOT THE BEST CARE GALAXY COMMUNICATIONS MONEY CAN BUY, KILEY!
THAT'S SOMETHING THAT PUZZLES ME. I THOUGHT JOHN RUBEN HAD BEEN EDGE'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN--THEY WERE SCHOOL CHUMS!
I, UH, HAVE TAKEN OVER HIS PRACTICE, WHILE HE RECOVERS FROM A BOATING ACCIDENT!
OOH. TOUGH BREAK. THINGS DON'T SEEM TO BE FALLING THE RIGHT WAY FOR OLD MORGAN. YOU KNOW HIS PREDICAMENT?
OH YES.
HOW IN THE WORLD DID HE GET INVOLVED WITH ALL OF THIS?
GIANT ROBOTS DESTROYING THE WATERFRONT! * ORGANIZED CRIME--THAT INTERGANG-THING THE DAILY PLANET WROTE ABOUT!
PRETTY HEAVY STUFF FOR A MAN WHO'S RUNNING A COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY!
...YING TH...RONT! * ...ED CRIM..., NONE OF...IAT HAS BEEN PROVED IN THE COURTS!
* IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #456
SUPERMAN CAUGHT HIM IN THE ACT! * HE COLLAPSED RIGHT IN HIS ARMS FROM THE HEART ATTACK!
THEN THE BIG GUY KEPT EDGE ALIVE UNTIL PARAMEDICS ARRIVED!
* IN ACTION #643
THINK OF THE IRONY THERE. HE'S BEEN DOING ANTI-SUPERMAN EDITORIALS ON HIS TV STATION FOR YEARS!
WELL, DR. KILEY, HIS LIFE IS NOT IN SUPERMAN'S HANDS ANYMORE...

"... I'D SAY HE WAS DREAMING UP A STORM BY NOW."

MILTON FINE, I PRESUME? OR SHOULD I SAY BRAINIAC?

I AM VRIL DOX, THE GREATEST MIND OF COLU!

YOU ARE NOW IN MY WEB OF INFLUENCE!

LUTHOR?

"...HIS LIFE IS IN THE HANDS OF FATE..."

NOOOOOO

BOOM

THAT SOUND! THERE'S SOMETHING FORMING IN THE LIGHT...

DESTINY HAS DECREED THAT OUR PATHS SHOULD CROSS, MORGAN EDGE.

WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU BLOCKING MY WAY?

LEXCORP AND BRAINIAC ARE NOW FOREVER INTERTWINED.

VRIL DOX LABORS FOR NONE BUT HIS OWN CAUSE!

YOU MISUNDER-STAND, COLUAN...

I AM DEVOURING VRIL DOX!

I AM THE BLACK RACER! THIS DOORWAY IS NOT OPEN TO YOU...

...YET.

PLEASE...

I'M NO *EARTHMAN* TO BE CHEWED UP AND SPAT OUT AS YOU PLEASE.

KRANG

YOU CAN NO LONGER CONTROL ME AS YOU CAN THIS SOFT-HEARTED NEMESIS, SUPERMAN!

IT'S *OVER*...

YOUR DREAMS OF CONQUERING WILL NEVER SUCCEED WHILE I STILL STAND.

GREAT AS YOUR POWERS MAY BE, YOU ASPIRE *ONLY* TO SERVE MANKIND, NOT TO *RULE* IT...

...LET YOUR STATURE REFLECT THE MODESTY OF YOUR *GOALS*.

I-I'M SHRINKING!

"I DON'T LIKE THIS..."

...I MUST GET TO THE *LIGHT*...

HE GUARDS THAT *PORTAL*...

I BROUGHT YOU HERE BY *BOOM TUBE* SO THAT YOU DID NOT *TEMPT* THE RACER'S *TOUCH* WITH YOUR PRESENCE...

I AM *METRON*, KNOWLEDGE SEEKER OF THE *NEW GODS*.

AM I-- ARE WE *DEAD*?

IT IS THROUGH THE POWER OF MY *MOBIUS* CHAIR THAT WE CAN BE *HERE* IN A PLACE OF *NEITHER LIFE*, NOR *DEATH*.

HERE WILL BE REVEALED THE *DECEPTIONS* THAT FUELED YOUR *LIFE*!

WHAT IS *YOUR* PART IN THIS?

HE IS BUT AN INFORMATION GATHERER-- AN *IMPARTIAL WITNESS* TO YOUR *DEALS* WITH THE *DEVIL*-- OR SHOULD I SAY *DARKSEID*?

GREAT *MASTER*!

...HE'S SLIPPED INTO A DEEP REM SLEEP!

AND HIS VITAL SIGNS ARE ALL IRREGULAR.

I HATE TO WAKE HIM, BUT I MUST NOTIFY THE BIG MAN!

MR. L. I KNOW IT'S AN ODD HOUR--BRAINIAC IS DREAMING! AND HE'S EXTREMELY AGITATED...

YOU WERE RIGHT TO NOTIFY ME, KELLEY. EVEN AT THREE IN THE MORNING.

THIS COULD BE AN IDEAL SITUATION FOR THE PSIONIC SCANNERS HE'S HOOKED UP TO, TO LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE POWERS OF HIS!

DO WHAT YOU MUST TO ENCOURAGE THIS DREAM-STATE, BUT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES LET HIM REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS.

I'D HATE TO CONTEMPLATE THE REPERCUSSIONS OF THAT, KELLEY.

POOR DEVIL. NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO NOW BUT WATCH AND WAIT.

I'LL BE BACK. GOT TO CHECK IN WITH MY SERVICE.

THIS IS ALREADY A DEATH-WATCH, MR. MANNHEIM. NO SENSE RISKING MURDER; DEATH 'LL COME TO HIM THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.

THAT IS NOT SATISFACTORY.

WE'VE WAITED TOO LONG ALREADY--WE CAN'T AFFORD THE RISK OF HIM GIVING ANY STATEMENTS TO THE COPS.

HE'S PUT THIS WHOLE INTERGANG OPERATION IN JEOPARDY!

THESE ARE TOUGH RULES, BUT EDGE MADE THEM HIMSELF! "IF ANYONE'S INCAPACITATED, HE OR SHE MUST BE ELIMINATED."

NOTHING PERSONAL. JUST BUSINESS.

IT WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF, SIR...

"REST ASSURED, MR. LUTHOR, BRAINIAC'S STILL IN SLUMBER-LAND!"

I SEE YOU'VE CAPTURED A RED-CRESTED SAP SUCKER.

LEX LUTHOR?

YOU KNOW, IF I WEREN'T SUCH A *FAIR* MAN, I MIGHT BE MAD THAT *YOU* DEFEATED THE MAN OF STEEL *BEFORE* I DID!

BUT SEEING AS WE TWO ARE *PARTNERS*...

YOU AND I ARE *MOST DEFINITELY NOT* PARTNERS, EARTHLING!

BRAINIAC, *NO!* HE'LL GET LOOSE!

CRASH!

"...HE'LL *NEVER* REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS."

GREAT *DARKSEID*, WHAT HAVE I DONE, BUT *SERVE* YOU AND YOUR *CAUSE*. MY CORPORATION, GALAXY, SUPPLIES FINANCING FOR INTER-GANG...

...WHILE *YOU* SUPPLY ***APOKOLIPTIAN*** TECHNOLOGIES. I THOUGHT IT WAS A PARTNERSHIP, YET YOU *REFUSED* TO HELP ME WHEN I WAS MOST NEEDY!

YOUR CREATURE *TURMOIL* WOULD NOT FOLLOW MY COMMANDS, AND CAUSED THIS SITUATION I'M IN *NOW!*

HOW DARE YOU *PRESUME* TO BE *MY* PARTNER! YOU WERE A CHESS-PIECE--A *PAWN* TO BE SACRIFICED.

WE WERE *NEVER* PARTNERS!

CRASH!

HOW I *DESPISE* YOU, LUTHOR!

BUT LUTHOR'S SURGEONS REMOVED A *TUMOR* FROM YOUR BRAIN -- *SAVING* YOUR LIFE!

IN EXCHANGE FOR THE INDENTURED SERVITUDE OF SIDESHOW MENTALIST *MILTON FINE!*

BUT AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE...

...UNDERNEATH THIS USELESS EARTHER'S SKIN...

...I AM *VRIL DOX* OF THE PLANET COLU...

...AND MY *STATURE* THERE *DWARFS* YOU *BOTH!*

WHAT OF YOUR *PLANS* FOR SUBJUGATING EARTH?

MY INTEREST WAS IN USING *INTERGANG* TO CREATE *CHAOS!*

WHAT CAN DARKSEID GAIN FROM *CHAOS*, MY LORD?

DARKSEID GAINS *NOT!*

FROM CHAOS SPRINGS THE SEEDS OF *DESPAIR*, AND *ANGUISH* -- POWERFUL EMOTIONS WHICH COURSE THROUGH YOU EVEN NOW!

I FEED ON SUCH *HUMAN* EMOTIONS! TURMOIL'S ACTIONS, RANDOM AS THEY WERE, REAPED AN ABUNDANCE, INCLUDING YOUR *EXQUISITE* SUFFERING!

I HAVE *NOT* BEEN DEALING WITH THE *MASTER?*

I AM *DESAAD!* INTERGANG SERVES *MY PURPOSE!* DID YOU TRULY THINK ONE SUCH AS DARKSEID WOULD INVOLVE HIMSELF IN SUCH TRIVIAL DEALINGS?

THE COMPUTER TYRANTS WHO RULED COLU FEARED MY GENIUS AND HAD ME ELIMINATED BY DEMOLISHING MY BODY--

--BUT MY MIND SURVIVED TO INHABIT THIS EARTH-MAN'S FORM.

NO MATTER, I HAD OUT-GROWN COLU.

AS I SHALL OUTGROW THIS WORLD...

KERAASH

...AFTER I HAVE ELIMINATED YOU-- THEIR VALIANT HERO!

IT PLEASED ME TO INDULGE IN A BIT OF ROYAL IMPERSONATION WITH YOUR TORTURED SOUL!

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN A LITTLE BOY IN ANGUISH CALLED OUT FOR HELP?

IT WAS ONE OF YOUR MOST DELICIOUS MOMENTS, MORGAN EDGE!

LET'S RELIVE IT, SHALL WE?

NO, PLEASE! I BEG YOU TO STOP...

THESE ARE THE EMOTIONS THAT DREW ME INTO YOUR LIFE!

BEG FOR YOUR MISERABLE LIFE, SUPERMAN!

THOUGH IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD!

KRUNCH

BECAUSE WHEN I HAVE SUBJUGATED THE PEOPLE OF EARTH, THEY WILL HAVE NO NEED FOR *HEROES!*

WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT *TALKING* BACK, YOU LITTLE *FOOL!*

FATHER?!--

DON'T YOU EVER TAKE THAT TONE WITH ME, YOU WHINING *BRAT!*

VINCENT! HE WAS ONLY STANDING UP TO YOU ON *MY* ACCOUNT!

SLAP

THE LIVES I CREATE FOR THEM WILL LEAVE NO *VOID* FOR A *CHAMPION* TO FILL!

THEY WILL BE *CRUSHED* IN THEIR INFANCY...

POK

...AND ALL LIVES WILL BE THE *BETTER* FOR IT!

WHUMP

YOUR KIND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO SPRING UP...

"THIS HAS GOTTEN TOO BIG..."

METR

VINCENT EDGE DOES NOT NEED A SON WHO'S A "*MOMMA'S-BOY!*"

IF *YOU* GAVE HIM A LITTLE *LOVE--!* YOU'RE *HURTING* ME!

THIS BOY IS GOING TO GROW UP ONE DAY, AND HE WON'T BE SO *EASY* TO *IGNORE* OR BULLY AROUND, VIN!

I'VE MADE A GOOD HOME FOR BOTH OF YOU AND I'M DAMN TIRED OF NOT BEING APPRECIATED FOR IT!

WHUMP

DOWNTOWN

SHUT UP.

MOMMY!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SLEEP, NOW -- DO THOSE TWO COMPREHEND THE SCALE OF DESTRUCTIVE POWER BRAINIAC POSSESSES?

ALL HIS READINGS ARE FLYING OFF THE CHARTS. AT THIS RATE, HE MIGHT *JOLT* HIMSELF *AWAKE!*

LUTHOR *WANTS* HIM IN HIS DREAM PHASE, SO *MORE* SEDATION IS OUT OF THE QUESTION RIGHT NOW.

WHAT IF HE'S SOMEHOW ESCALATING HIS BODY FUNCTIONS TO SHAKE OFF THE EFFECTS OF OUR DRUGS?

HIS SYSTEM *COULD* HAVE ADJUSTED TO THE *DOSAGES* OVER TIME...

FOR ALL THIS *RISK*, I HOPE THE COMPUTERS ARE TAKING ALL OF THIS IN! LUTHOR WILL CRUSH US BOTH IF WE SCREW UP!

"SHE'S DEAD!"

"IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, ASK MY SON!"

"Y-YES -- AN ACCIDENT."

DR. KILEY! HIS HEART'S BEATING WAY TOO FAST!

THIS IS BAD -- HE'S ON MEDICATION THAT'S SUPPOSED TO REGULATE HIS HEARTBEAT!

WE'VE GOT TO CHECK HIS I.V. DOSAGE...

THE SCENT OF DEATH PERMEATES THIS ROOM...

I'LL GET A SEDATIVE READY JUST IN CASE.

I'D *RATHER* YOU CHECKED WITH HIS MEDICATION LOG FIRST...

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SNEAKING AROUND LIKE THAT?"

NO! I'M LEX LUTHOR! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME.

YES! RUN FROM MY TITANIC BOOT, WHELP!

YAAAAAAAH! HELP ME!

SUPERMAN! SAVED BY MY ENEMY!

YOU'RE WELCOME, LEX.

NOW, HOW DO WE CONTAIN HIM?

WHY DO I BOTHER TEACHING YOU MANNERS? YOU'RE SIMPLE LIKE YOUR MOTHER!

MY MOTHER LOVED ME, AND YOU KILLED HER!

TAKE THAT BACK YOU LITTLE LIAR! SHE TRIPPED!

STRAIGHTEN OUT, KID, OR I'LL SEND YOU TO A REFORM SCHOOL, INSTEAD OF THAT PRIVATE ONE I'M SHELLING OUT BUCKS FOR!

HE'S A GOOD BOY, MR. VINCENT-- HE JUST MISSES HIS MAMA.

:SOB: HE PUSHED HER, ETTIE!

MOOT POINT, SUPERMAN, FOR I HAVE CONTAINED YOU!

BROADWAY

I, VRIL DOX, DECREE THAT YOU-- AND YOUR BELOVED METROPOLIS--

KRACK-A-BOOM

I HATE HIM! I HATE MY FATHER! HE SHOULD BE DEAD, NOT MY MOTHER!

HE SAYS I'M LIKE MY MOTHER--SOB--BUT NOT ANYMORE! I'LL SHOW HIM WHAT HE'S LIKE!

FROM THIS DAY ON, I'M GOING TO BE JUST LIKE HIM--COLD AND CRUEL!

--BE BANISHED FOREVER FROM MY SIGHT--

--TO THE DESOLATE COLD OF THE ANTARCTIC!

"WE DARE NOT WAIT ANY LONGER..."

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DAD..."

ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT!

WHAT? MORGAN, NO -- I BROUGHT YOU INTO THIS COMPANY--!

ALL THESE YEARS -- I'VE WAITED FOR THIS DAY!

SHOW DAD THE STREET, BOYS!

SORRY, MR. EDGE-- RULES!

YOU HAVE LEARNED WELL.

GREAT DARKSEID, WITHOUT YOUR WATCHFUL TUTELAGE, I COULD NOT HAVE CARRIED THIS SCHEME TO ITS FRUITION!

SAVOR THE EMOTION OF THE DAY, AS I DO. THUS, IS OUR PACT SEALED!

WE'VE GOT TO BRING HIM DOWN -- I *PRAY* THE DOSAGE IS RIGHT!

THAT'S WHAT LEXCORP PAYS YOU THE BIG BUCKS FOR!

VERY HUMOROUS, HAPPERSEN -- I *KNOW WHY* I ENDED UP HERE...

...*YOU'RE* HERE BECAUSE YOU LET JOSE DELGADO WALK CLEAN AWAY WITH A MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF *LEXCORP* TECHNOLOGY!

WE *ALL* MAKE MISTAKES...

YOU'RE *SURE* YOU CHECKED THE NURSES' CHART? WE'LL *TICK* EVERY-BODY OFF IF WE LOSE *EDGE* -- THE *POLICE*, THE *MEDIA*, HIS *FAMILY*!

HIS INTERGANG "*FAMILY*" WILL *GLADLY* INCUR THE *RISK*!

I'M NOT AFRAID ANYMORE...

HIS *EYES* WERE NOT MEANT TO GAZE UPON MY VISAGE...

WHO?

DID YOU HEAR TH--? *HOW'D* YOU GET IN HERE?

ARE YOU *BLIND*? HE'S STANDING THERE...

CALCHI, HAVE YOU LOST IT? THERE'S *NO ONE THERE*! WE HAVE A PATIENT TO ATTEND TO!

"... LET'S NOT LET THIS ONE WALK AWAY FROM US."

WITH *EACH* STRIDE, I GROW BEYOND *THIS* WORLD!

EVEN NOW, MY BRAIN ACHES TO BE *RID* OF THESE CONFINES...

...TO JUST-- GET AWAY...

"WE'VE LOST HIM!"

"RIGHT IN FRONT OF US!"

MOTHER! I'M NOT AFRAID ANYMORE-- I WANT TO *JOIN* YOU HERE!

COME THEN, MORGAN, INTO THE *LIGHT*...

NOOO! I DON'T *WANT* TO GO BACK-- IT'S ALL A CHAIN OF DECEPTION -- AND *MISERY!*

THE *LIGHT* HOLDS *HAPPINESS*, AND PEACE FOR MY SOUL...

I WAS READY--LET ME GO...

HIS EKG READING IS NEARLY FLAT!

IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE! THAT DOSAGE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN FATAL, ACCORDING TO OUR MONITORS.

FACE IT. HE FOUND A WAY TO ESCAPE US...

...HE DIED!

I'M FREE! I'VE BROKEN FROM THE CONFINES OF MY HUMAN SHELL.

WE'VE GOT TO TRY RESUSCITATION TO BRING HIM BACK!

ACHHHHH--!

I AM THE POWER THAT MAKES ALL MEN TREMBLE--I AM THE BLACK RACER.

YOU AND I ARE LINKED IN THIS MOMENT OF DYING, DOCTOR.

THE BLACK RACER-- FROM MY DREAM...

IT WAS NO DREAM, MORGAN EDGE, NOR WAS IT YOUR TIME TO DIE. BE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT OUR DESTINIES ARE FOREVER INTER-TWINED.

I'LL BE BACK.

WHAT'S WRONG?

THAT'S ME DOWN THERE-- I'M BEING PULLED BACK!

WE'RE NOT SUNK YET, KELLEY! HIS BRAIN IS STILL LINKED TO THE LAB'S COMPUTER MAINFRAME...

I'M GOING TO TRY TO JOLT HIS SYSTEM BACK!

CLIC CLAK

CLIK CLAK

PATHETIC IMBECILES. ONCE MY MIND WAS UNFETTERED BY THE DRUG-INDUCED HALLUCINATIONS, IT WAS SIMPLE TO CONTROL THIS BODY'S BIO-RHYTHMS.

I'LL PERFORM HEART MASSAGE...

WE'VE GOT A HEARTBEAT!

PULSE IS COMING BACK, TOO.

THANKS TO ME, NOT THEM!

THOUGH AS MY MIND GROWS STRONGER, THIS BODY GROWS WEAKER!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HERE?

I'M SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, DR. KILEY...

DEAR GOD-- I WAS JUST TALKING TO HIM--NOW HE'S *DEAD!*

CHECK ON EDGE, HE WAS ABOUT TO GET A SHOT FROM CALCHI!

HIS PULSE IS STRONG-- I'LL CALL FOR A "*CRASH-CART*" FOR DR. CALCHI, THOUGH.

THE POLICE LAB SHOULD GET A LOOK AT THAT!

I SUPPOSE SO.

THAT INJECTION WOULD'VE BEEN *LETHAL*, ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE WE'RE PUMPING INTO HIM!

A LOT OF GUYS WOULD *LIKE* TO SEE EDGE KICK IT...

KELLEY, WE *DID* IT!

NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE *HUGGING* YOU--FOR ANY REASON--HAPPERSEN, BUT WE'VE KEPT OURSELVES OUT OF LUTHOR'S *DOG-HOUSE!*

IT'S BEST THAT WE EASE UP ON HIS MEDICATION UNTIL HE'S *FULLY* RECOVERED!

MAN-O-MAN! IF WE'D LOST *THIS* ONE, WE'D'VE ENDED UP WORKING AT LEXCORP'S *SOLID-WASTE TREATMENT PLANT* IN CENTRAL CITY!

"*TWO HOURS LATER, AND HIS SIGNS ARE STABLE.*"

"*I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO GO OVER THE DATA THE COMPUTERS COMPILED ON THIS GUY OVER THE LAST SIX HOURS.*"

"*SOMEBODY UP THERE MUST LIKE HIM.*"

MY WORK IS DONE FOR NOW.

CALM DOWN NOW, MR. *LEVINE!*

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I RETURN NOW TO MY CONFINES IN THE AREA KNOWN AS SUICIDE SLUM...

DEATH-- *DEATH!*

...UNSEEN BY ALL BUT THOSE POOR SOULS AT *DEATH'S DOORWAY...*

"*YES, VERNA JOHNSON GAVE ME THE KEY. HER BROTHER, WILLIAM, IS AN INVALID...*"

THAT'S YOUR LINE OF EXPERTISE. I'M JUST HAPPY TO SEE OUR GUEST SLEEPING LIKE A BABY!

MORE LIKE FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER, IF YOU ASK ME!

I'LL BE HAPPY WHEN THIS IS ALL DONE WITH, AND I DON'T HAVE TO PLAY NURSE-MAID TO HIM ANY-MORE!

THERE IS MUCH TO DO IN THIS ASTRAL FORM, BEFORE MY SYSTEM IS AGAIN CLOUDED BY THEIR CHEMICALS...

MY BOND WITH THIS BODY IS STRONG, SO I MUST TAKE MEASURES TO INSURE ITS PHYSICAL RECOVERY, IF I AM EVER TO ESCAPE HERE.

YOU CAN READ MORE ON THE BRAINIAC SAGA STARTING IN ACTION #647, BY STERN, PÉREZ AND BREEDING!

I'M JUST CHECKING IN ON HIM BEFORE I GO TO WORK...

AIN'T NO PLACE FOR A GAL T'BE WALKIN' BY HERSELF-- THE SLUM...

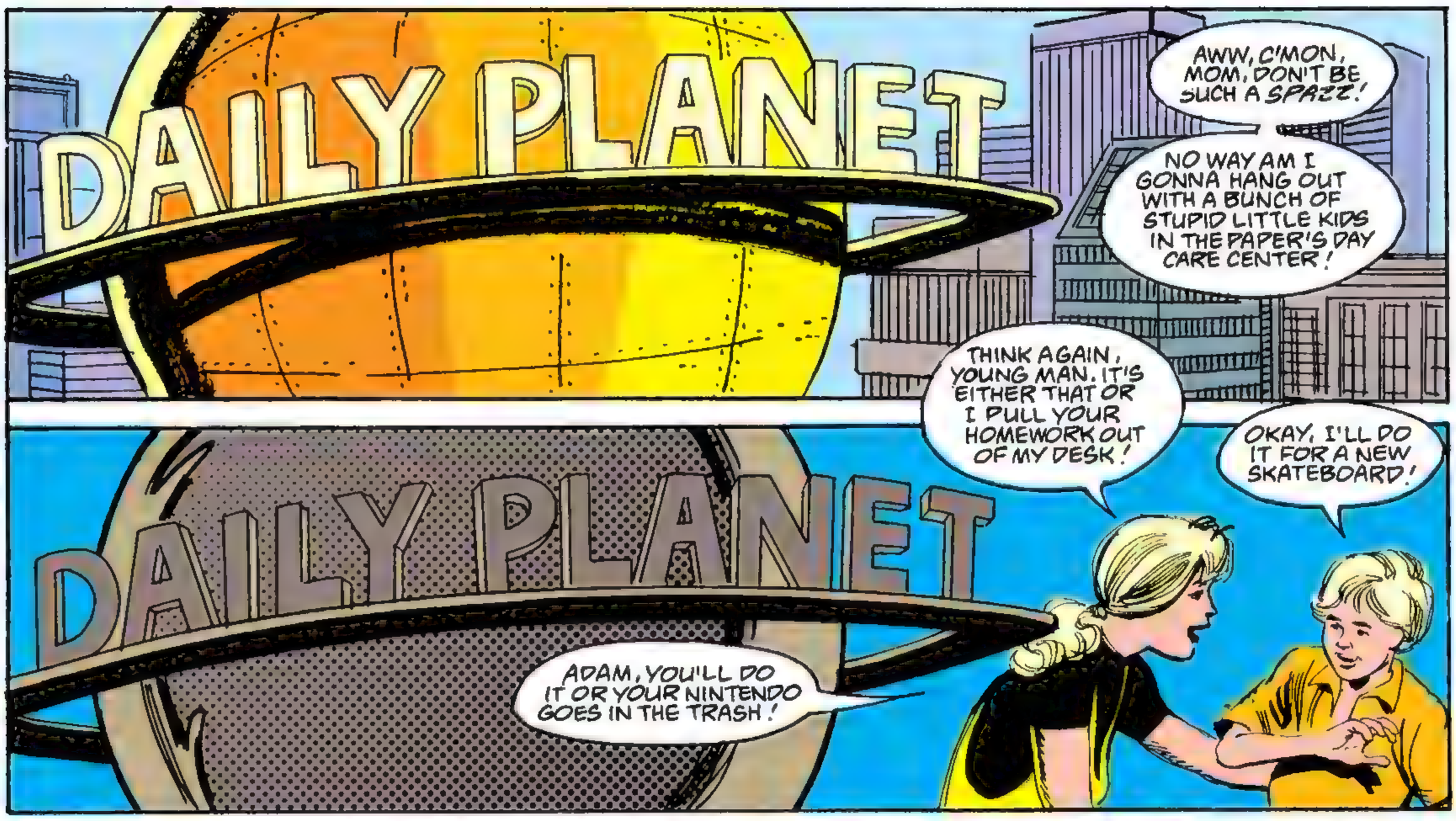
WILLIE? RISE AND SHINE! IT'S YOUR COUSIN TAMMY!

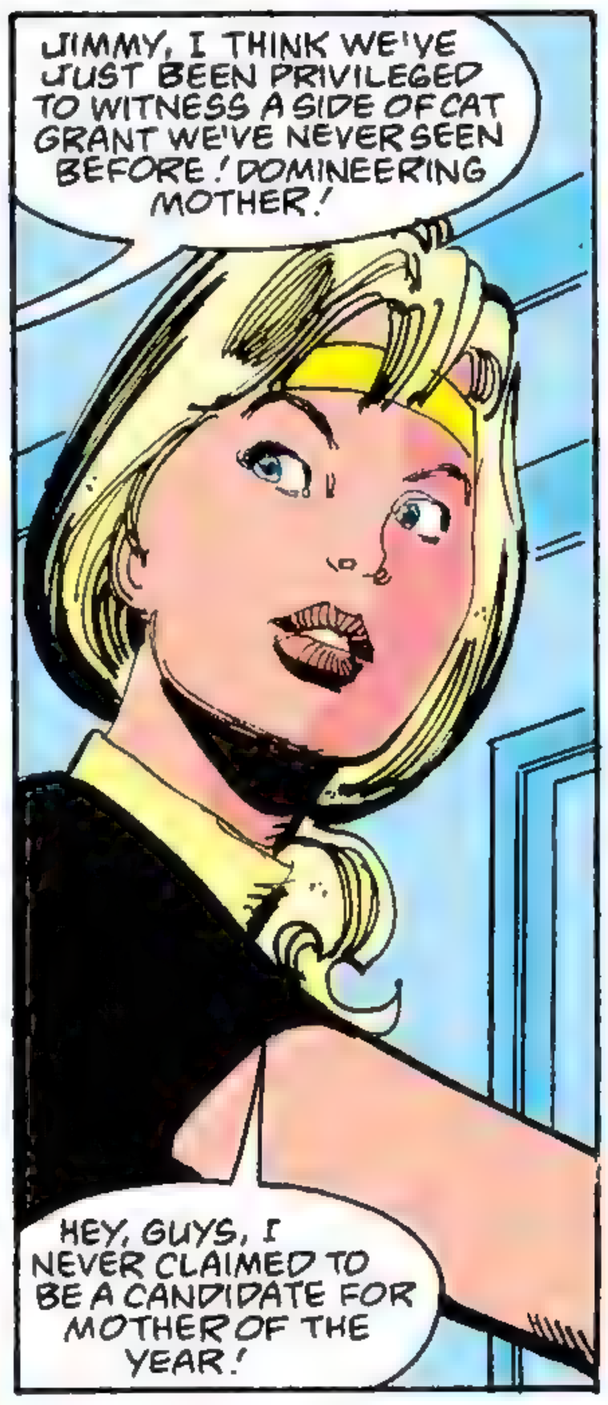
I BROUGHT YOU BREAKFAST, AND A NEWS-PAPER TO READ TO YOU!

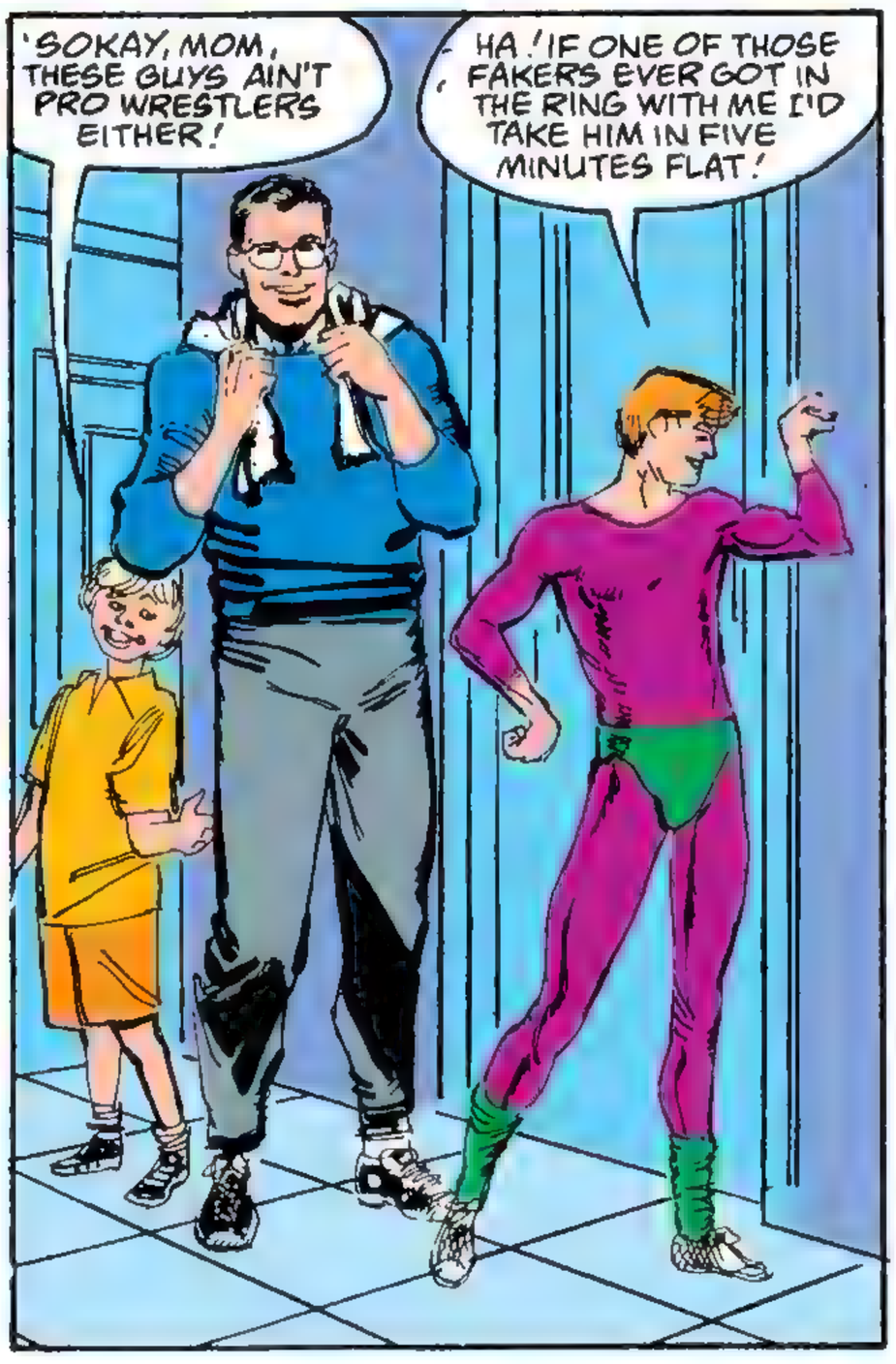
POOR WILLIE. HOW HORRIBLE IT MUST BE-- TO NEVER BE ABLE TO LEAVE HIS ROOM! HOW SMALL HIS WORLD MUST SEEM...

WILLIE WALKER'S LIFEFORCE IS MY VESSEL IN THIS REALM, AND IT IS TIME I RETURNED IT TO HIM.

NEXT MONTH:
THE PRANKSTER


DAILY PLANET
AWW, C'MON, MOM, DON'T BE SUCH A SPAZZ!
NO WAY AM I GONNA HANG OUT WITH A BUNCH OF STUPID LITTLE KIDS IN THE PAPER'S DAY CARE CENTER!
THINK AGAIN, YOUNG MAN. IT'S EITHER THAT OR I PULL YOUR HOMEWORK OUT OF MY DESK!
OKAY, I'LL DO IT FOR A NEW SKATEBOARD!
ADAM, YOU'LL DO IT OR YOUR NINTENDO GOES IN THE TRASH!


JIMMY, I THINK WE'VE JUST BEEN PRIVILEGED TO WITNESS A SIDE OF CAT GRANT WE'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE! DOMINEERING MOTHER!
HEY, GUYS, I NEVER CLAIMED TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR MOTHER OF THE YEAR!


'SOKAY, MOM, THESE GUYS AIN'T PRO WRESTLERS EITHER!
HA! IF ONE OF THOSE FAKERS EVER GOT IN THE RING WITH ME I'D TAKE HIM IN FIVE MINUTES FLAT!

AM I TO ASSUME THAT YOU TWO DASHING SPECIMENS OF PHYSICAL MANHOOD ARE MY AEROBICS ESCORTS?
I DON'T KNOW IF I QUALIFY, BUT KILLER OLSEN HERE...
CHARLES ATLAS, EAT YOUR HEART OUT!

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YOU DON'T LOOK SO TOUGH TO ME! YOU LOOK KINDA *STUPID*

WHAT ARE *YOU*, THE FASHION CONSULTANT TO THE RICH AND FAMOUS ALL OF A SUDDEN?

YOU KNOW, CLARK, YOU REALLY DO APPEAR TO BE IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE!

WELL, GROWING UP IN A HARD WORKING FARM FAMILY WILL DO THAT TO YOU!

TRUTH TO TELL, I'M NOT AT ALL ATHLETIC!

I'LL DEAL WITH *YOU* LATER, SHORT STUFF!

AWWW, YOU STILL LOOK LIKE A BIG PURPLE WEENIE.

HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO HANDLE PRO WRESTLERS IF YOU CAN'T EVEN HANDLE A LITTLE BOY, JIMMY?

ER... AHH...

GET IT *TOGETHER*, OLSEN -- SHE DUMPED EDGE HARD, SO THIS IS *NOT* THE TIME TO BLOW IT WITH HER KID!

HELLO, PERRY, LOIS... HOW'S THE ARM?

I'LL GET BY, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN SAY THE SAME FOR MR. GRUMPO HERE!

DAMN RIGHT I'M GRUMPY! IF THE PLANET DIDN'T INSIST THAT EVERYONE ENROLL IN THIS RIDICULOUS AEROBICS CLASS--

OH, LIGHTEN UP, PERRY! REMEMBER TO THINK HEART-SMART!

ORDINARILY I *FIRE* REPORTERS FOR THROWING CLICHES AT ME!

ENOUGH JABBER, PEOPLE! TIME TO WORK, WORK, WORK!

FIRST THE STRETCHING AND WARMING UP.

THEN COMES THE REAL TORTURE.

THAT'S IT, PEOPLE! PUSH YOURSELVES!

GOSH, CAT--HUFF--I'M BEAT AND YOU'RE STILL--HUFF--GOING FULL STRENGTH! I'M IMPRESSED!

PUSH MYSELF? WHO'S GOING TO PUSH HER? THIS IS KID'S STUFF!

IF YOU WANT THAT LEAN AND MEAN LOOK YOU HAVE TO EARN IT!

HOW DOES SHE -HUFF- DO IT, LOIS? I WON'T LAST ANOTHER -HUFF- MINUTE!

NOT ONLY HAS CAT BEEN DOING THIS FOR YEARS, BUT WOMEN SIMPLY HAVE GREATER ENDURANCE, JIMMY!

YOU'RE GOING GOOD, THOUGH--KEEP IT UP!

OHH...

TROUBLES, CLARK?

HUFF JUST CAN'T GET THE HANG OF IT, I GUESS!

I DON'T GET IT, MR. KENT! YOU'RE -HUFF- NOT EVEN SWEATING!

WHAT'S THE DEAL, ACE? GOT SOME KIND OF COOLING SYSTEM UNDER THOSE SWEATS?

-HUFF- HEREDITY! MY PARENTS DON'T PERSPIRE EITHER!

EVEN THOUGH... I WANT TO QUIT... I'VE GOT TO KEEP GOING... OR CAT'S GONNA THINK... I'M SOME KIND OF... WIMP!

ANYBODY UP FOR A JOG IN THE PARK AFTER THIS?

WELL, I *WON'T* QUIT! I'LL OUTLAST THEM ALL!

YOU'RE REALLY COOKING WITH GAS NOW, JIMMY!

SHE *NOTICED!*

JUST NEEDED MY SECOND WIND, CAT!

WAIT, SOMETHING'S WRONG...

STRETCH IT, OLSEN, *STRETCH* IT!

STARTING TO HURT...

REALLY HURT!

KEEP IT UP!

NO PROBLEM!

WOW, I JUST MAY GET A SECOND SHOT WITH CAT!

-!WHEW!- THAT IS IT FOR *ME!* I'M COMPLETELY DONE IN! YOU REALLY PUT ME TO SHAME, JIMMY!

STRETCH TWO--THREE--FOUR!

STRETCH TWO--THREE--FOUR!

JIMMY, YOU'RE NOT LOOKING SO HOT. MAYBE YOU BETTER REST FOR A BIT!

WANT TO STOP... BUT I CAN'T!

IT'S LIKE SOMETHING IS *MAKING* ME STRETCH!

STRETCH TWO--THREE--FOUR!

-!ARRGH!- THE *PAIN!*

I SING THE BODY ELASTIC

GEORGE PÉREZ: PLOT
DAN JURGENS: WORDS AND PICTURES
KLAUS JANSON: FINISHES
ALBERT DE GUZMAN: LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE: COLORIST
JONATHAN PETERSON: ASSOCIATE EDITOR
MIKE CARLIN: EDITOR

HELP ME!

FOR GOD'S SAKE... HELP ME!

WHAT IN THE WORLD?!

OH, MY GOD...

JIMMY!

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

OH, MAN, IT HURTS SO MUCH!

HE'S OBVIOUSLY TERRIFIED, BORDERING ON HYSTERIA!

BUT HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE? JIMMY'S NEVER EXHIBITED ANY TYPE OF *SPECIAL ABILITIES* OR *POWERS* THAT I KNOW OF!

CLARK, WE HAVE TO HELP HIM... DO SOMETHING!

HOW? I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS!

SKRASH

YOU'VE GOT TO *TRY*!

JIMMY... LISTEN... JUST *RELAX*! YOU'VE GOT TO *CALM DOWN*!

I CAN'T! CAN'T-- *CONTROL* MYSELF!

THE PAIN--SO *INTENSE*... I CAN'T EVEN THINK! MAKE IT *STOP*!

PLEASE MAKE THE PAIN STOP!

PLEASE DO SOMETHING, CAT!
I--I WISH I COULD, BUT--
JIMMY, ONCE AGAIN... THE FIRST THING YOU HAVE TO DO IS *CALM DOWN!*
YOU'RE UPSET-- IRRATIONAL! WE CAN'T HELP YOU UNTIL YOU PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
JIMMY... UHMM...
YOU'RE SQUEEZING SO TIGHT-- CAN'T *BREATHE!*
TELL ME WHAT'S HAPPENING, CAT! HELP ME MAKE IT *STOP!*
HE'S SUFFOCATING HER! GET HIM OFF AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!
HOW? IT'S LIKE YANKIN' ON A STEEL CABLE!
PLEASE, GUYS... THIS ISN'T *FUN!* OH, MAN IF YOU ONLY KNEW HOW MUCH I *HURT!*
THUNDERATION! WHAT THE DEVIL IS THIS KID MADE OF? HE DOESN'T EVEN FEEL *HUMAN!*
LISTEN UP, JIMMY! I WANT YOU TO CONCENTRATE ON ONE THING AND ONE THING ONLY!
RELEASE CAT...
...BEFORE YOU *KILL* HER!
K-KILL C-CAT?
FORGIVE ME! PLEASE SAY YOU FORGIVE ME!
:UHN! :UHN! AIR! I CAN FINALLY BREATHE!

I ALMOST KILLED HER-- GOTTA WORK MY WAY OUT-- FIND HELP!

FIND SUPERMAN!

WHAT THE--?!

AFTER HIM--DON'T LET HIM OUT OF THE BUILDING!

CALL THE COPS-- SAWYER'S SPECIAL TACTICS SQUAD!

I'M ON MY WAY TO DO JUST THAT!

ONLY AFTER I DO WHAT I CAN. THE LAST THING I WANT IS FOR SOME OVERZEALOUS COP WITH A BAZOOKA TAKING SHOTS AT JIMMY!

A SUPERMAN DOESN'T HAVE MANY FRIENDS IN THE WORLD...

...AND JIMMY'S ONE OF THE FEW I'VE GOT!

HIS ENERGY... HIS DIRECTNESS AND NATURAL ENTHUSIASM...

...ALL REMIND ME OF ME WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.

IF HE'S TO BE STOPPED, I'LL HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO DO IT!

NO, LET ME GO!

WHAT'S THE NOISE ALL ABOUT--WOW, FOR COOL!

JIMMY, WE'RE ONLY TRYING TO HELP!

NO! I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANY OF YOU AGAIN!

LET-- ME-- GO!!

KRAKK

SUPERMAN!

EASY DOES IT, THERE, PAL. YOU'RE IN *GOOD* HANDS AT LAST.

NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN--

GREAT SCOTT! YOU'RE SO PLIABLE--SO SNAKE-LIKE--THAT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO HOLD YOU!

¡ARRGH! DON'T SQUEEZE!

NEED A HAND, SON?

THANK GOD!

BY THE STARS! YOUR *CONSISTENCY* KEEPS CHANGING! WITH EVEN THE SLIGHTEST PRESSURE YOUR BODY BECOMES... LIKE *LIQUID!*

STOP! PLEASE! YOU'RE HURTING ME!

O-OKAY... BUT AT THIS HEIGHT--

--THE FALL MIGHT KILL YOU!

AIEEEEEEE!

THANK GOODNESS SUPERMAN'S COME! MAYBE HE CAN HALT THIS INSANITY!

HOW IS HE GOING TO DO THAT WHEN HE CAN'T EVEN TOUCH THE KID?

SURE WISH I COULD STRETCH LIKE THAT...

FALLING EVEN FASTER--GONNA HIT THE STREET IN SECONDS!

WAIT! I CAN FEEL IT--ME--CONTRACTING--

--PULLING MYSELF BACK IN!

MY BODY IS REACTING LIKE SOME SORT OF INVOLUNTARY MUSCLE!

BUT EVEN THOUGH I'M STARTIN' TO LOOK IT...

...I'M STILL FAR FROM NORMAL!

AMAZING! JUST AS A NORMAL PERSON WILL JERK HIS HAND OUT OF A HOT FLAME WITHOUT THINKING...

...IT APPEARS YOUR BODY IS QUITE CAPABLE OF ADJUSTING TO ANY THREAT IT ENCOUNTERS!

SPANG

MY CAR! YOU JUST DESTROYED A MINT CONDITION 55 FORD CROWN VICTORIA!

JEEZ, LIKE I'M SORRY, OKAY?

SOMEHOW THAT EXERCISE COURSE MUST HAVE SET THIS OFF!

JIMMY WAS EXERTING HIMSELF... HIS RATE WAS UP... BLOOD OXYGEN LEVELS UP...

SPRONG

BOING

BUT NOW THAT HE'S CHANGED, COULD HE REVERT TO NORMAL EVEN IF I GOT HIM SETTLED DOWN?

SUPERMAN--WHY AREN'T YOU HELPING ME? WHY!?

THOUGHT I COULD LET HIM CASCADE THROUGH THE CITY AND LET NATURE RUN ITS COURSE!

BUT HE'S TOO WILD--TOO OUT OF CONTROL--TOO UNNATURAL!

LOOK OUT!

STAY AWAY FROM ME--GET AS FAR AWAY AS YOU CAN!

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT I CAN'T CONTROL MY ACTIONS!

THE BOY'S BECOMING MORE AGITATED BY THE MINUTE! I'LL HAVE TO STOP HIM...

...BEFORE HE REALLY DOES KILL SOMEONE!

MOVE IT, FOLKS! THIS IS FAST BECOMING A BATTLE ZONE!

NO KIDDING!

I CAN'T LET THIS DESTRUCTION CONTINUE! BUT HOW DO I STOP IT WITHOUT INJURING ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS?

SUPERMAN!

HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO JIMMY?

OK, YOU TWO SHOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE! JIMMY DOESN'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT HURTING A FRIEND!

SORRY, BIG BLUE, I INTEND TO STAY PUT! JIMMY COULD USE A FEW FRIENDS RIGHT NOW!

HAVE IT YOUR WAY, BUT STAND CLEAR!

TOO BAD JIMMY CAN'T HEAR YOU TALK THAT WAY, CAT!

VICTORY The deodorant for the hero in YOU

EVEN WHEN I TRY TO GET AWAY FROM PEOPLE BY GOING HIGH I WIND UP DESTROYING THINGS!

VICTORY The deodorant for the hero in YOU

IN THIS CASE WE COULD CONSIDER IT OKAY, JIM...

...I NEVER REALLY CARED FOR THIS GUY ANYWAY!

PLEASE MOVE, CAN'T YOU SEE I DON'T WANT TO HARM YOU?

LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT KINDA CREEPY CRAWLER YOU ARE, KID...

...BUT YOU AIN'T GONNA HURT NO ONE!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

NO.

NO BULLETS.

WE'LL DO THIS MY WAY.

THOUGH I CAN'T GRAB JIMMY OR HOLD HIM, THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T *CONTAIN* HIM!

PAIN... GETTING *WORSE*... CAN'T EVEN THINK ANYMORE!

GOTTA GET OUT OF THE CITY--GET TO THE COUNTRY WHERE I CAN'T HURT A SOUL!

JIMMY, I'M HERE! TELL ME WHAT TO DO!

JIMMY, I'M HERE!

TELL ME WHAT TO DO!

CRASH

YEOWW!

WHAT IN THE WORLD DID THIS TO YOU, JIMMY?

OKAY, PAL, WITH A LITTLE LUCK...

...WE'RE GOING TO END THIS THING!

JUST AS I EXPECTED! JIMMY'S BODY WRAPS ITSELF AROUND ANYTHING THAT GETS IN ITS WAY!

I'VE GOT IT, JIM, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS HANG ON TO ME!

AND NO MATTER WHAT I DO HERE, REMEMBER THAT IT'S ALL FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!

PLEASE, JUST HURRY... I CAN'T STAND ANY MORE OF THIS...

FIRST I SPIN INTO YOU, JIMMY... WRAPPING YOU AROUND AS MUCH OF MYSELF AS POSSIBLE!

HANG IN THERE, PAL! IT WON'T BE LONG NOW!

WHAT UHNF THE HECK ARE YOU UHNF DOING?

NEXT... CENTRIFUGAL FORCE. WHILE I SPIN IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION, YOU *UN*WRAP--

--AND GO RIGHT INTO THE "BAG!"

DESPITE YOUR AMAZING NEW POWERS, I'M BETTING YOU CAN'T GET OUT OF THIS ONE!

HE'S STRUGGLING FURIOUSLY-- FIGHTING HIS CAPTIVITY LIKE A TIGER!

WILL YA TAKE A LOOK AT THAT!

SORTA MAKES YOU PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN, DON'T IT?

JIMMY, YOU'RE SAFE NOW. AND YOU'RE GOING TO CALM YOURSELF...

...BREATHE SLOWLY... DEEPLY...

...GIVE UP ANY THOUGHT OF FIGHTING OR STRUGGLING!

GOOD, HE'S LETTING UP!

THAT'S IT... DEEP BREATHS... RELAXING BREATHS... JUST TRUST ME.

YOU KNOW THAT NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES, I WON'T LET YOU DOWN!

GOOD! HIS SHEER EXHAUSTION IS CALMING HIM!

MY SUPER-HEARING REVEALS THAT HIS HEART RATE IS DROPPING TO NORMAL!

THERE-- HE'S FINALLY BREATHING NORMALLY!

OKAY, JIMMY, I'M LETTING YOU OUT. AS NEAR AS I CAN TELL...

...YOU SHOULD BE BACK TO NORMAL! THERE--HOW DO YOU FEEL?

BEAT-- *TERRIFIED!* WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?

IT WAS AWFUL--AND THE *PAIN!* I COULD ACTUALLY FEEL MY BONES--MYSELF-- GRINDING AND FRAGMENTING!

PROMISE ME THAT IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!

I CAN'T. I DON'T *KNOW WHAT* HAPPENED TO YOU, JIM, BUT DON'T WORRY...

NO MATTER THE COST, I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP!

METROPOLIS, ONE DAY LATER.

FOR THE FIFTIETH TIME, LOIS--

--WHEN AM I GOING TO SEE THAT PIECE ON MISSISSIPPI FOR THE SUNDAY PICTURE MAGAZINE?

NOW, JOSH, HAVE I EVER BLOWN A DEADLINE FOR YOU?

NOPE. BUT YOU CONSTANTLY LEAVE ME HANGING BY MY THUMBS UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!

CITY ROOM

NIXON REAGAN

OH, THE SACRIFICIAL LIFE-STYLE OF AN EDITOR-- SPEAKING OF WHICH, IS THE CHIEF IN?

YEP, HE'S IN HIS OFFICE WADING THROUGH YOUR LAST COLUMN!

PERRY, ANY WORD ON JIMMY?

LOIS, WHEN WILL YOU EVER LEARN THAT "AMEND" IS SPELLED WITH ONE "M"?

AND NO, I HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD. THE KID MUST STILL BE AT HAMILTON'S.

DON'T USE THE GRUFF ACT WITH ME, PERRY! WE KNOW YOU CARE!

I'M HEADING OVER TO CHECK ON HIM NOW... WANT TO JOIN ME?

NO, LOIS, I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T DO THAT!

SUPERMAN WAS VERY EXPLICIT-- ABSOLUTELY NO VISITORS ALLOWED!

WHY NOT? IT'S NOT LIKE JIMMY IS CONTAGIOUS, IS HE?

PERRY?

ACROSS TOWN IN AN OLD WAREHOUSE DISTRICT...

GEE, PROFESSOR HAMILTON, DO YOU THINK THIS IS REALLY NECESSARY?

I SHOULD CERTAINLY THINK SO, JIMMY. YESTERDAY'S MYSTERIOUS OCCURRENCE COULD HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY ANY NUMBER OF THINGS.

WITH THAT IN MIND, PLACING YOU IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY PURE CHAMBER IS *ESSENTIAL!*

BUT I'M *BEAT!* YOU WON'T LET ME SLEEP, WON'T LET ME EAT...

I'VE *HAD* IT!

MR. OLSEN, IF I AM TO DISCOVER THE ORIGIN OF YOUR MALADY, YOUR TOTAL PATIENCE IS *VITAL!*

YOUR BODY CHEMISTRY MUST APPROXIMATE YESTERDAY'S AS LONG AS POSSIBLE!

THEREFORE, YOU WILL INGEST NOTHING!

WELL, HANG IT! THERE'S PROBABLY NOTHING YOU CAN DO ANYWAY!

LET ME OUTTA HERE!

DON'T AGITATE YOURSELF, YOUNG MAN! IF WE DON'T DISCOVER WHAT CAUSED YOU TO CHANGE...

...IT *MAY* HAPPEN AGAIN!

SORRY, PROFESSOR HAMILTON; I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

WITH NO SLEEP AND YESTERDAY'S TRAUMA, I GUESS I'M NOT MYSELF.

NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE, YOUNGSTER, YOUR PLIGHT IS EXPLANATION ENOUGH.

READY FOR THAT COMPUTER DISK YOU WANTED, PROFESSOR?

INDEED I AM, SUPERMAN.

THE INFORMATION ON THAT DISK COULD BE ESSENTIAL!

ANY CLUES SO FAR?

NOT YET, BUT THIS MAY PROVIDE SOME WELCOME INSIGHT!

WHAT'S ON THE DISK, SUPERMAN?

ELONGATED MAN'S PHYSICAL CHARTS, JIMMY RALPH DIBNY AND THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WERE KIND ENOUGH TO LOAN THEM TO US FOR THE RESEARCH.

THERE MAY BE A CONNECTION BETWEEN HIS STRETCHING POWERS AND WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.

AT THIS POINT, WE DARE NOT OVERLOOK ANY POSSIBILITIES!

AH, HOW VERY INTERESTING.

YOU WILL HAVE TO THANK THE AMAZING MR. DIBNY FOR HIS COOPERATION, SUPERMAN.

I BELIEVE I FINALLY HAVE AN INKLING CONCERNING THIS BAFFLING SITUATION.

TRY TO IMAGINE WHAT ALLOWANCES MUST OCCUR FOR A BODY TO STRETCH.

DOES THE SKELETAL STRUCTURE CHANGE IN COMPOSITION, AND IF SO, HOW DOES IT RETAIN ITS INTEGRITY?

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE VARIOUS MUSCLES AND ORGANS?

DIBNY STRETCHES WITHOUT PAIN. *SOMEHOW* HIS BODY IS ABLE TO ADAPT.

WHY, THOUGH? AND MORE IMPORTANT WHY IS MR. OLSEN UNABLE TO ADAPT AS EASILY?

ACCORDING TO THIS, DIBNY'S POWERS ARE GAINED BY DRINKING A CHEMICAL COMPOUND-- *GINGOLD.*

IT ACTUALLY CAUSES HIS *CHEMICAL COMPOSITION* TO ADJUST TO STRETCHING. THE RESULT: NO DISCOMFORT.

EM

HMMM, YES. YES. THIS HERE IS THE *CULPRIT.* IT WOULD APPEAR THAT JIMMY'S PROBLEM GOES MUCH *DEEPER*--AND IS AT A CONSIDERABLY EARLIER STAGE OF MATURITY.

JIMMY'S ABILITY TO STRETCH IS CAUSED BY THIS UNKNOWN VIRUS-- A VIRUS THAT ACTUALLY *ATTACKS* AND *RESTRUCTURES* THE *DNA* HELIX.'

A *VIRUS!* YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT ALL THIS WAS CAUSED BY SOMETHING AS EASY TO CATCH AS A COLD?

BUT WHY WOULD HIS CLOTHES STRETCH TOO? THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!

PROFESSOR, ARE YOU SAYING I'M JUST *SICK*?

IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING, YES.

AS TO YOUR OUTFIT... THERE ARE UNFORTUNATELY SOME ASPECTS OF THIS WHOLE SCENARIO THAT I STILL CANNOT FATHOM.

PERHAPS SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR SWEAT... I JUST CANNOT BE *SURE*.

FOR NOW, IF WE CAN JUST IDENTIFY THIS VIRUS, WE'LL--!

GREAT GALAXIES, WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS!

THE COMPUTER HAS BROKEN DOWN JIMMY'S PERSONAL *DNA* MAP AND THE CHANGE IS *OBVIOUS!*

ARE YOU SAYING THE CHANGE IS PERMANENT-- THAT JIMMY WILL RETAIN THESE POWERS?

NO, I'M SAYING THAT THE VERY ESSENCE OF JIMMY, HIS *DNA* HELIX, NOW BEARS THE INFLUENCE OF THIS VIRUS.

REMOVING IT MAY REQUIRE *GENETIC SURGERY!*

WHAT?

DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT I'M SOME KIND OF *FREAK?!*

NOT NECESSARILY, JIM. I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT WE'D DO WHAT WE CAN TO CURE YOU AND I MEANT IT!

WHAT IF YOU CAN'T, THOUGH?

I DON'T WANNA LIVE OUT MY LIFE AS A *RUBBER-BAND!*

IF WE CAN CURE THE VIRUS, PERFORM THE SURGERY--

NO WAY! STAY BACK! I REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY WHEN YOU SQUEEZED ME!

JIM, YOU'LL BE OKAY, I *PROMISE.*

Y-YOU'RE GOING?

PROFESSOR HAMILTON WILL MAKE THE INITIAL ARRANGEMENTS, JIMMY... PLEASE TRUST HIM.

I DID, AND HIS HELP SAVED MY LIFE COUNTLESS TIMES WHILE I WAS GONE.

BELIEVE ME, KID, I'LL BE BACK SOON.

HATED TO LEAVE JIMMY LIKE THAT...

...BUT HAMILTON'S GOOD--ONE OF THE BEST! IF ANYONE CAN HELP JIMMY OUT, I'M SURE HE'S THE MAN. IF NOT...

NO! I CAN'T EVEN THINK THAT WAY!

IF YOU CHECK THE GRAPH YOU'LL SEE IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE TO BACK-DATE THE VIRUS--DETERMINE WHEN YOU CONTRACTED IT.

I'D SAY YOU GOT IT ABOUT EIGHT DAYS AGO.

DID ANYTHING SPECIAL HAPPEN THEN?

HMMM... WELL...

YEAH! THAT'S THE DAY SUPERMAN FINALLY CAME BACK!

AS I RECALL, HE'D BEEN IN DEEPSPACE WANDERING THE PLANETS! DID YOU HAVE ANY PERSONAL CONTACT WITH HIM?

YEAH, AS SOON AS HE SAW ME HE--*

*SEE ACTION COMICS #643

PROFESSOR! ARE YOU SAYING THAT *SUPERMAN* DID THIS TO ME?

IT IS A POSSIBILITY WE MUST NOT DISMISS. WHO KNOWS WHAT TYPE OF ALIEN LIFE HE MIGHT HAVE ENCOUNTERED?

AND SINCE YOU CONTRACTED THE VIRUS THE DAY HE RETURNED...

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT MY BEST FRIEND IN THE WHOLE UNIVERSE...

"...ALMOST KILLED ME!"

"IF THAT IS TRUE, JIMMY, MY QUESTION IS... WHO ELSE DID SUPERMAN INFECT?"

SOMEWHERE ON THE NEARSIDE OF MARS...

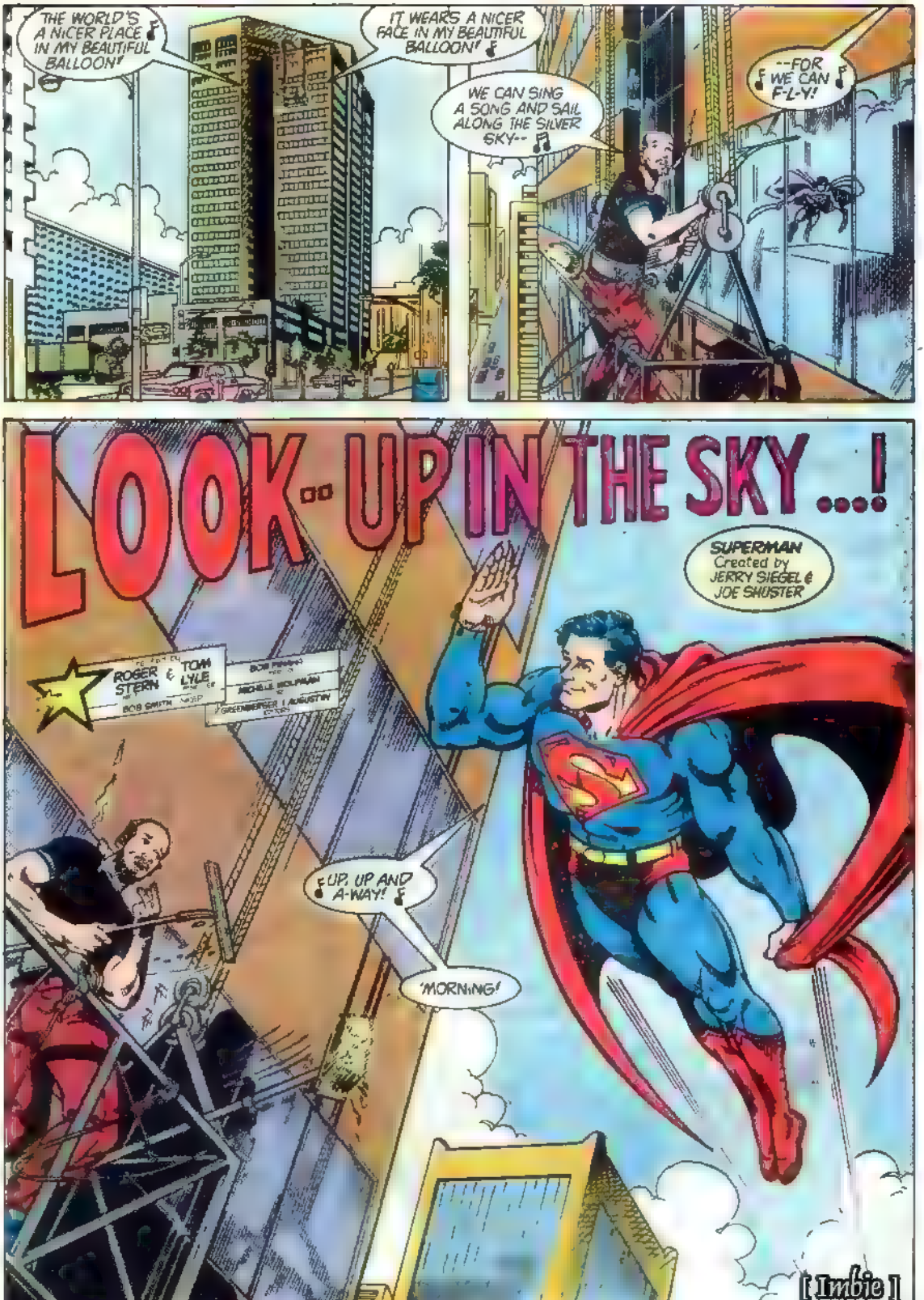
"WE ARE ON COURSE AND BEGINNING TO SLOW, MISTRESS."

"ESTIMATED EARTH ARRIVAL IN TWO HOURS."

THANK YOU, COMPUTER. HOW GOOD TO KNOW THAT AT LONG LAST...

...SUPERMAN WILL BE MINE FOREVER!

CONTINUED IN ACTION #645


THE WORLD'S A NICER PLACE IN MY BEAUTIFUL BALLOON!
IT WEARS A NICER FACE IN MY BEAUTIFUL BALLOON!
WE CAN SING A SONG AND SAIL ALONG THE SILVER SKY--
--FOR WE CAN F-L-Y!
LOOK-- UP IN THE SKY ...!
SUPERMAN Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
ROGER STERN & TOM LYLE
BOB SMITH
MICHELE WOLFMAN
GREENBERGER / AUGUSTYN
UP, UP AND A-WAY!
'MORNING!
[Imbie]

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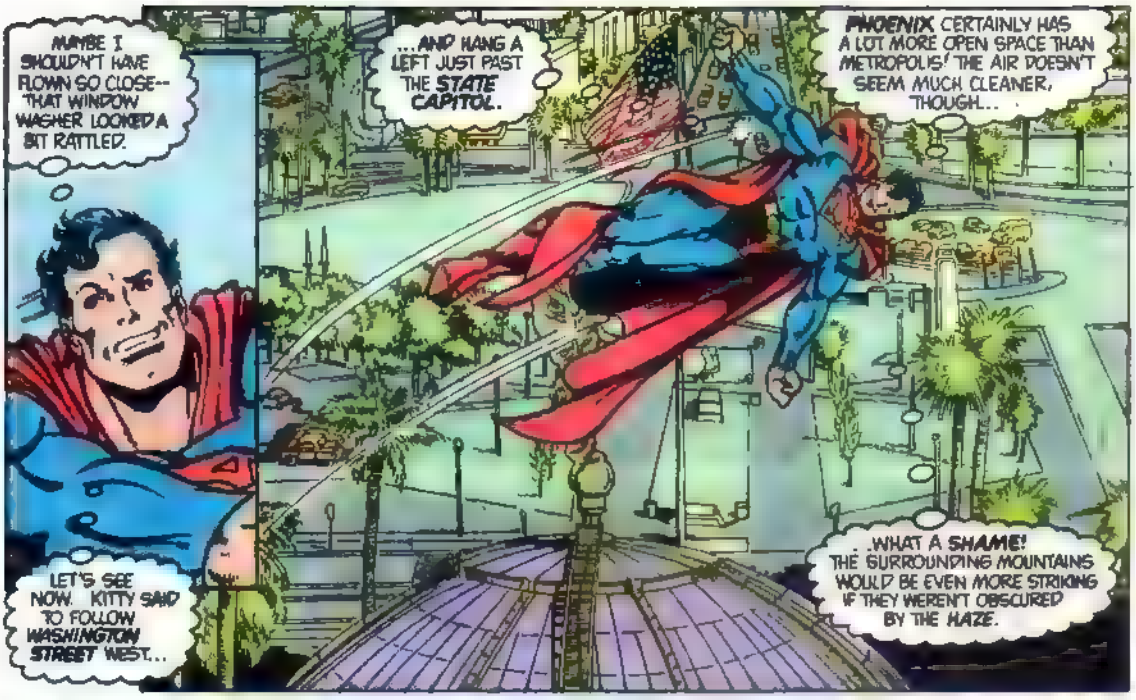
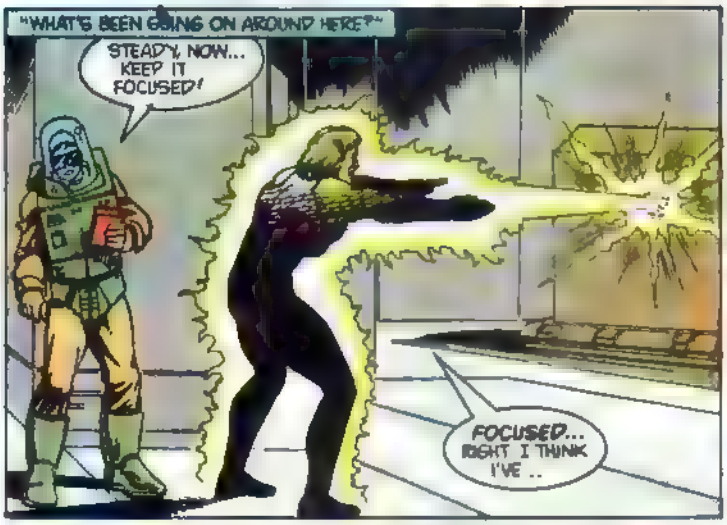

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE FLOWN SO CLOSE-- THAT WINDOW WASHER LOOKED A BIT RATTLED.
...AND HANG A LEFT JUST PAST THE STATE CAPITOL.
PHOENIX CERTAINLY HAS A LOT MORE OPEN SPACE THAN METROPOLIS! THE AIR DOESN'T SEEM MUCH CLEANER, THOUGH...
LET'S SEE NOW. KITTY SAID TO FOLLOW WASHINGTON STREET WEST...
...WHAT A SHAME! THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS WOULD BE EVEN MORE STRIKING IF THEY WEREN'T OBSCURED BY THE HAZE.

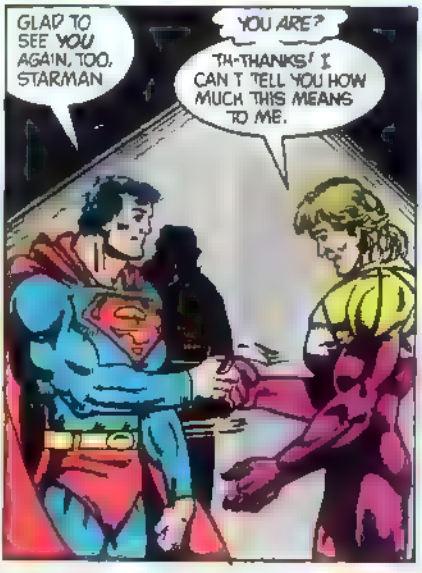
AH...AND HERE'S THE LOCAL S.T.A.R. LAB. JUST AS SHE SAID. THAT DAMAGE THEY'RE REPAIRING LOOKS RECENT...KITTY DIDN'T MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?
S.T.A.R. LAB


"WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON AROUND HERE?"
STEADY, NOW... KEEP IT FOCUSED!
FOCUSED... RIGHT. I THINK I'VE ..

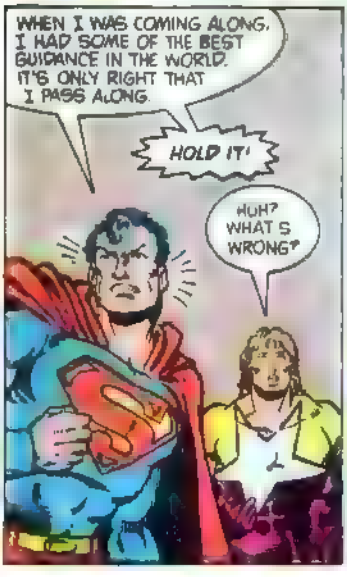
DAMN! SORRY, DR. FAULKNER! I REALLY THOUGHT I HAD MY HEAT BEAM UNDER TIGHTER CONTROL THIS TIME
IT'S OKAY.. YOU GET A LITTLE BETTER WITH EACH TRY
"LITTLE" IS RIGHT
PATIENCE, STARMAN--

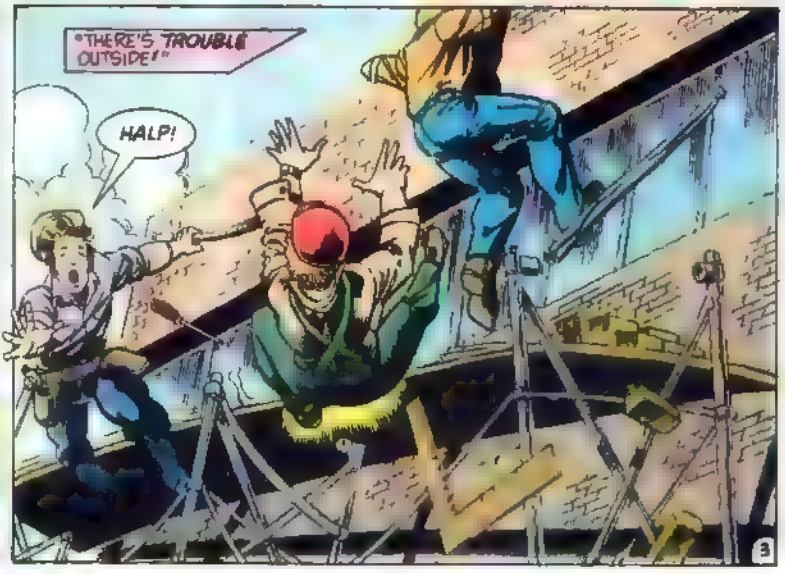
--DEVELOPING ANY ABILITY TAKES TIME. MASTERY DOESN'T COME OVERNIGHT
SUPERMAN!

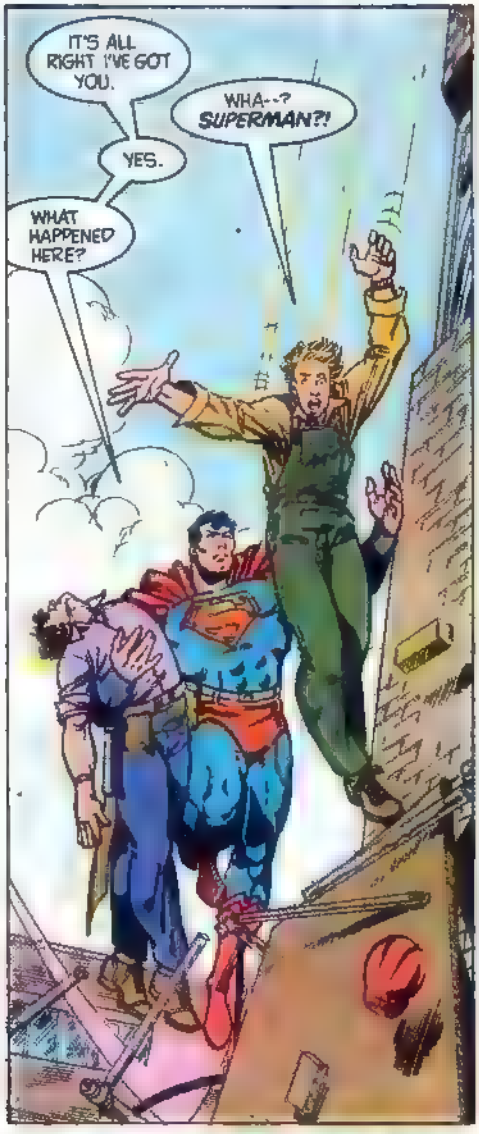
HELLO, DOCTOR! YOU LOOK WONDERFUL ARIZONA MUST AGREE WITH YOU!
WELL, THANK YOU! WE APPRECIATE YOUR FLYING OUT
MY PLEASURE

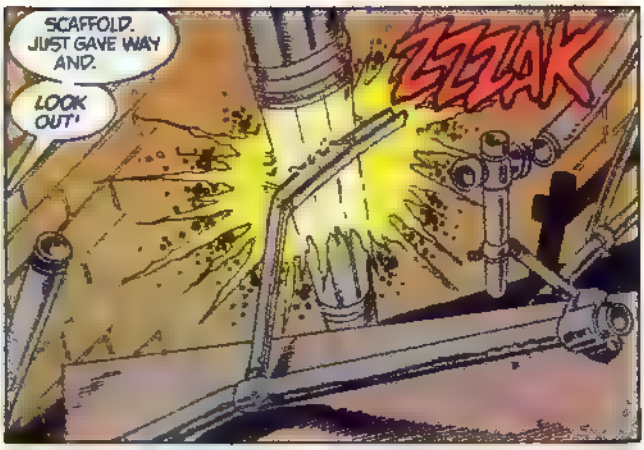

GLAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, TOO, STARMAN
YOU ARE?
TH-THANKS! I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO ME.

WELL, DR FAULKNER SAID YOU NEEDED SOME ADVICE. I'LL BE HAPPY TO GIVE YOU WHATEVER I CAN


WHEN I WAS COMING ALONG, I HAD SOME OF THE BEST GUIDANCE IN THE WORLD. IT'S ONLY RIGHT THAT I PASS ALONG.
HOLD IT!
HUH? WHAT'S WRONG?

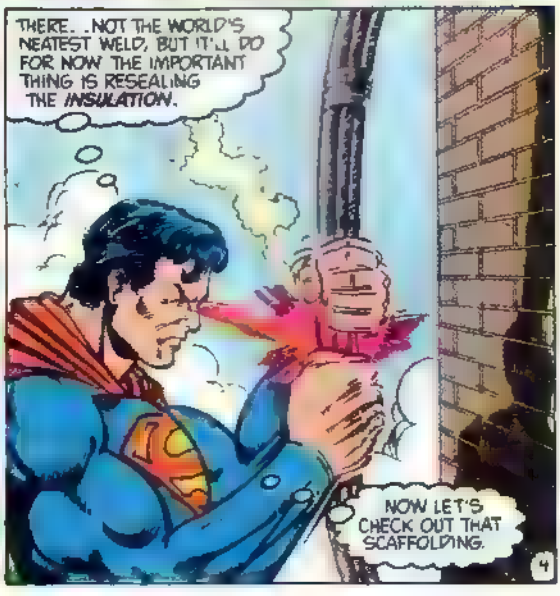

"THERE'S TROUBLE OUTSIDE!"
HALP!

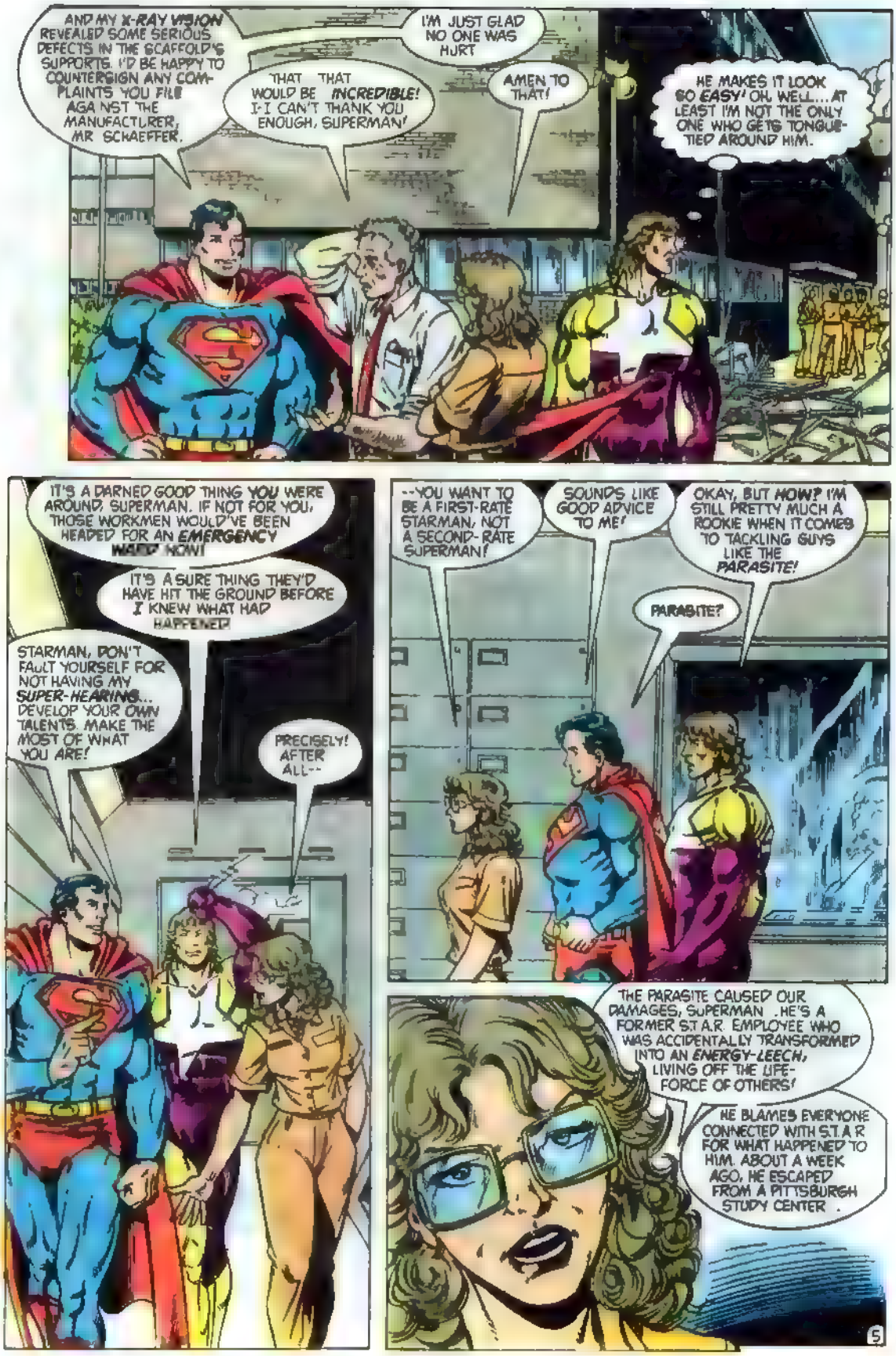

IT'S ALL RIGHT! I'VE GOT YOU.
WHA--? SUPERMAN?!
YES.
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

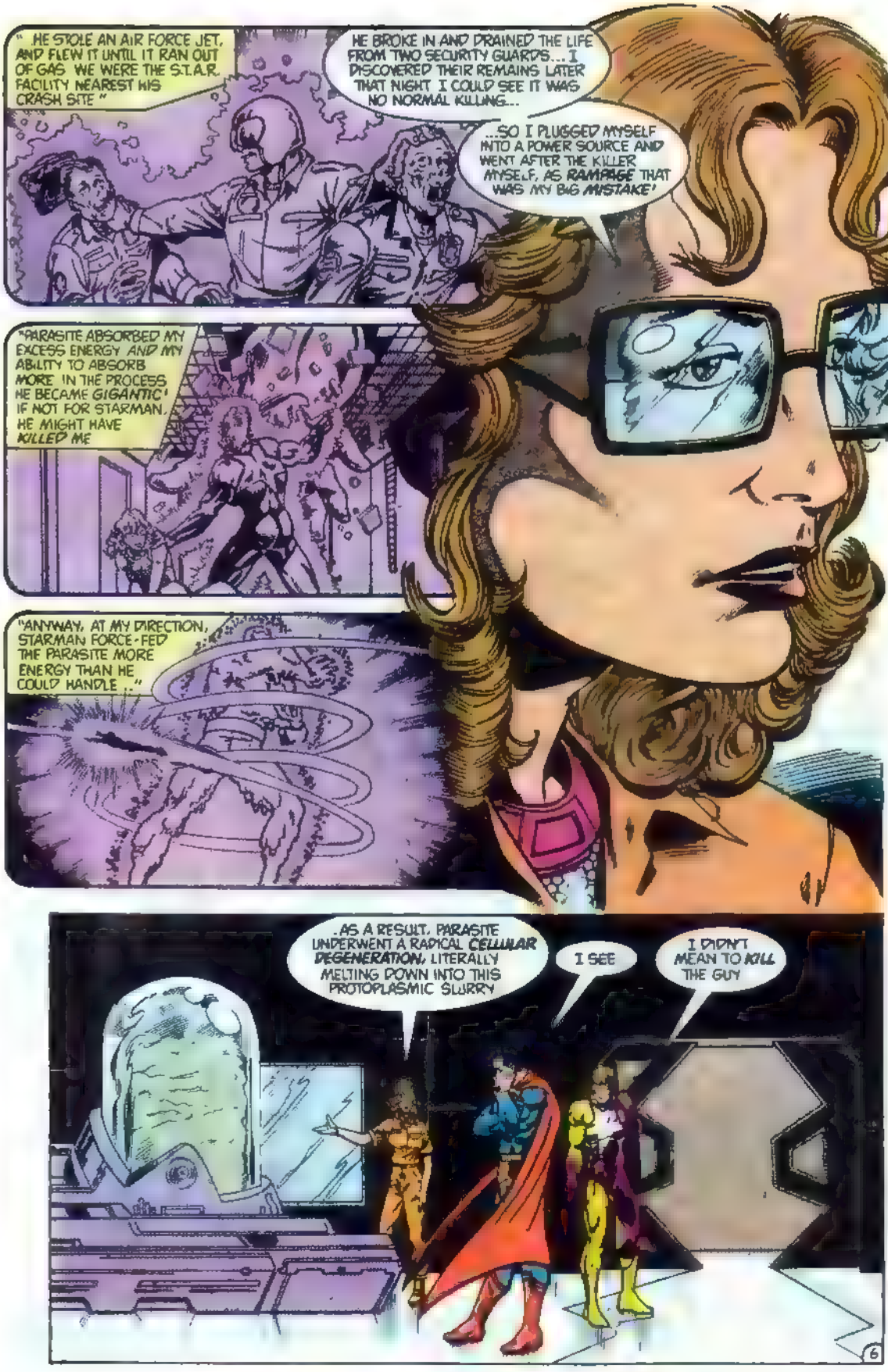

SCAFFOLD. JUST GAVE WAY AND.
LOOK OUT!
ZZZAK

SUPERMAN?! WHAT CAN I--?
GET THEM TO SAFETY--AND HELP THE MAN ON THE ROOF! I'LL HANDLE THIS!

SOME PRETTY HIGH VOLTAGES IN THESE LINES--NO TIME TO LOOK FOR A CUT-OFF SWITCH.


THERE. . .NOT THE WORLD'S NEATEST WELD, BUT IT'LL DO FOR NOW. THE IMPORTANT THING IS RESEALING THE INSULATION.
NOW LET'S CHECK OUT THAT SCAFFOLDING.


AND MY X-RAY VISION REVEALED SOME SERIOUS DEFECTS IN THE SCAFFOLD'S SUPPORTS. I'D BE HAPPY TO COUNTERSIGN ANY COMPLAINTS YOU FILE AGAINST THE MANUFACTURER, MR. SCHAEFFER.
I'M JUST GLAD NO ONE WAS HURT
THAT... THAT WOULD BE INCREDIBLE! I-I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH, SUPERMAN!
AMEN TO THAT!
HE MAKES IT LOOK SO EASY! OH, WELL... AT LEAST I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS TONGUE-TIED AROUND HIM.
IT'S A DARNED GOOD THING YOU WERE AROUND, SUPERMAN. IF NOT FOR YOU, THOSE WORKMEN WOULD'VE BEEN HEADED FOR AN EMERGENCY WARD NOW!
IT'S A SURE THING THEY'D HAVE HIT THE GROUND BEFORE I KNEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED!
STARMAN, DON'T FAULT YOURSELF FOR NOT HAVING MY SUPER-HEARING... DEVELOP YOUR OWN TALENTS. MAKE THE MOST OF WHAT YOU ARE!
PRECISELY! AFTER ALL--
--YOU WANT TO BE A FIRST-RATE STARMAN, NOT A SECOND-RATE SUPERMAN!
SOUNDS LIKE GOOD ADVICE TO ME!
OKAY, BUT HOW? I'M STILL PRETTY MUCH A ROOKIE WHEN IT COMES TO TACKLING GUYS LIKE THE PARASITE!
PARASITE?
THE PARASITE CAUSED OUR DAMAGES, SUPERMAN. HE'S A FORMER S.T.A.R. EMPLOYEE WHO WAS ACCIDENTALLY TRANSFORMED INTO AN ENERGY-LEECH, LIVING OFF THE LIFE-FORCE OF OTHERS!
HE BLAMES EVERYONE CONNECTED WITH S.T.A.R. FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM. ABOUT A WEEK AGO, HE ESCAPED FROM A PITTSBURGH STUDY CENTER.
5


" HE STOLE AN AIR FORCE JET, AND FLEW IT UNTIL IT RAN OUT OF GAS. WE WERE THE S.T.A.R. FACILITY NEAREST HIS CRASH SITE "
HE BROKE IN AND DRAINED THE LIFE FROM TWO SECURITY GUARDS... I DISCOVERED THEIR REMAINS LATER THAT NIGHT. I COULD SEE IT WAS NO NORMAL KILLING...
...SO I PLUGGED MYSELF INTO A POWER SOURCE AND WENT AFTER THE KILLER MYSELF, AS RAMPAGE THAT WAS MY BIG MISTAKE!
"PARASITE ABSORBED MY EXCESS ENERGY AND MY ABILITY TO ABSORB MORE. IN THE PROCESS, HE BECAME GIGANTIC! IF NOT FOR STARMAN, HE MIGHT HAVE KILLED ME
"ANYWAY, AT MY DIRECTION, STARMAN FORCE-FED THE PARASITE MORE ENERGY THAN HE COULD HANDLE..."
...AS A RESULT, PARASITE UNDERWENT A RADICAL CELLULAR DEGENERATION, LITERALLY MELTING DOWN INTO THIS PROTOPLASMIC SLURRY
I SEE
I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL THE GUY
6

I TOLD YOU, STARMAN, PARASITE ISN'T DEAD... NOT IN THE NORMAL SENSE. BESIDES, GIVEN THE ALTERNATIVES--!
I KNOW. BUT I STILL GET THE CREEPS THINKING THAT SOMETHING I DID REDUCED A MAN TO GREEN CUSTARD.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT, STARMAN. TOO MANY PEOPLE THESE DAYS HAVE A CAVALIER ATTITUDE ABOUT THE LIVES OF OTHERS. YOUR REACTION DOES YOU CREDIT.
YOU THINK SO?
YES, I DO. I SUSPECT THAT ALL YOU REALLY NEED IS MORE EXPERIENCE. I CAN'T GIVE YOU THAT. BUT I CAN GIVE YOU THE BENEFIT OF MINE, IF YOU DON'T MIND MY BENDING YOUR EAR.
NO... NOT AT ALL! I-I'D LIKE THAT VERY MUCH!
YOU TWO GO OFF AND HAVE A NICE CHAT... I'LL SEE YOU LATER. I'LL BE IN THE MAIN RESEARCH CENTER, IF YOU NEED ME FOR ANYTHING.
"I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS, WILL PAYTON..."
...YOU BEAST! GOING OFF TO HOBNOB WITH SUPERMAN, WITHOUT GIVING YOUR ONLY SISTER A CHANCE TO MEET HIM!
YOU MIGHT NEVER HAVE BECOME STARMAN IN THE FIRST PLACE, IF I HADN'T MADE YOU THAT COSTUME!
7

WELL, IF YOU WON'T INTRODUCE ME TO SUPERMAN, I'LL JUST DRIVE OUT TO S.T.A.R. LABS AND SNEAK A PEEK AT HIM... IF I CAN EVER FIND YOUR OLD BINOCULARS!
WHAT'S THIS?
BOOKS
OLD PICTURES? I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN THESE BEFORE
IS THIS MOM?! YES, IT HAS TO BE!
WOW
JAYNE! WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?
OH, JUST LOOKING FOR SOMETHING. BUT I CAME ACROSS A BOX OF OLD PHOTOS AND SORT OF GOT SIDETRACKED
YOU WERE A GORGEOUS BRIDE, MOM!
BRIDE? OH ..MY! I HAVEN'T LOOKED AT THESE IN YEARS!
I'LL BET YOU'RE NOT A POUND HEAVIER!
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT-- WHAT?!?
THERE'S A PICTURE OF ME WITH...WITH YOUR FATHER! I THOUGHT I'D GOTTEN RID OF ALL THOSE!
MOM, DON'T--!
NO, JAYNE! I WILL NOT HAVE THAT MAN'S PICTURE IN MY HOUSE!
RIPPP
8

NOT AFTER THE WAY HE TREATED US!
DAMN YOU, RAY--
--I SWORE YOU'D NEVER MAKE ME CRY AGAIN.
WHY DID YOU LEAVE US, DAD? IF ONLY I KNEW WHY, I COULD TRY TO UNDERSTAND.
"THERE'S SO MUCH TO FIGURE OUT--"
--ABOUT BEING A SUPER-HERO? IT'S STILL ALL SO STRANGE TO ME. FLYING THOUGH, IS ONE THING THAT'S PURE FUN!
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. IT'S THE ABILITY I MOST WISH I COULD SHARE WITH OTHERS.
BUT ARE YOU THAT UNCOMFORTABLE AS STARMAN?
LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY. I WASN'T SURE WHERE MY LIFE WAS GOING EVEN BEFORE I GOT THESE POWERS! DON'T YOU EVER WONDER WHY YOU DO WHAT YOU DO--OR WORRY ABOUT SCREWING UP?
AT TIMES I WORRY ABOUT DOING TOO MUCH FOR PEOPLE, ABOUT LETTING THEM GET TOO DEPENDENT ON ME. BUT I'VE NEVER REALLY DOUBTED MY PURPOSE IN LIFE.
MY PARENTS TAUGHT ME THAT YOU HELP OTHERS TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITIES. THOSE OF US BLESSED WITH SUPER-POWERS SIMPLY HAVE GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES!
9

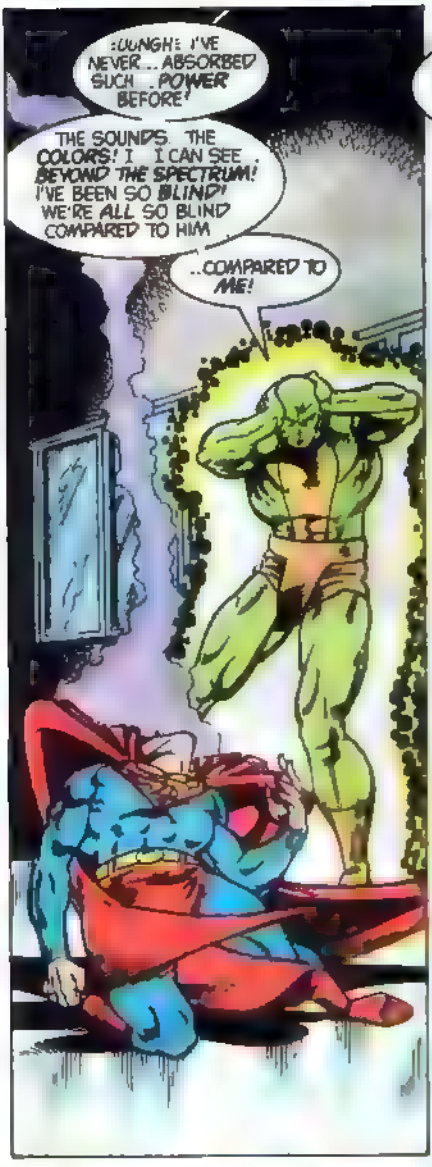
I SUPPOSE SO--I DO ENJOY HELPING PEOPLE--BUT I WORRY ABOUT THE FIGHTING ASPECTS OF THIS BUSINESS. HOW DO YOU GAUGE AN OPPONENT'S STRENGTHS?
GOOD QUESTION. WITH MY POWER, I CAN USUALLY AFFORD TO TAKE A FEW HITS. I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH FORMAL TRAINING.
. JUST A LITTLE WRESTLING BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL, BEFORE MY POWERS FULLY DEVELOPED
SMALLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
AND MOST OF WHAT I KNOW ABOUT FISTICUFFS, I'VE LEARNED AS CLARK KENT--COVERING TITLE FIGHTS FOR THE DAILY PLANET
EVEN SO, YOU'VE FOUGHT A LOT MORE BATTLES THAN I HAVE. COULD YOU MAYBE SHOW ME A FEW POINTERS?
POINTERS? YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO SPAR WITH ME?
WELL, YEAH. YEAH!
HMM. . ALL RIGHT I MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING AS WELL. BUT JUST REMEMBER--
10

--THIS WAS YOUR IDEA!
WHAM
WOO! HE REALLY CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD WITH THAT PUNCH!
HE MAY NOT BE AS BIG AS BLOCKBUSTER, BUT HE'S AT LEAST AS STRONG--AND MUCH FASTER! LET'S SEE IF HE'S FAST ENOUGH TO DUCK A GOOD, HARD--
--RIGHT?
OSH
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! HOW'D I MISS HIM?!
DO I HAVE TO GO SUPERSONIC TO--?
WHOA!
NICE DODGE--BUT YOU'VE LEFT YOURSELF WIDE OPEN!
BETTER! GOOD RECOVERY--BUT THAT POSTURE'S TOO DEFENSIVE--
--YOU'RE BLOCKING YOUR VISION AS WELL AS THE PUNCH. YOU HAVE TO SEE YOUR OPPONENT...
FHAP

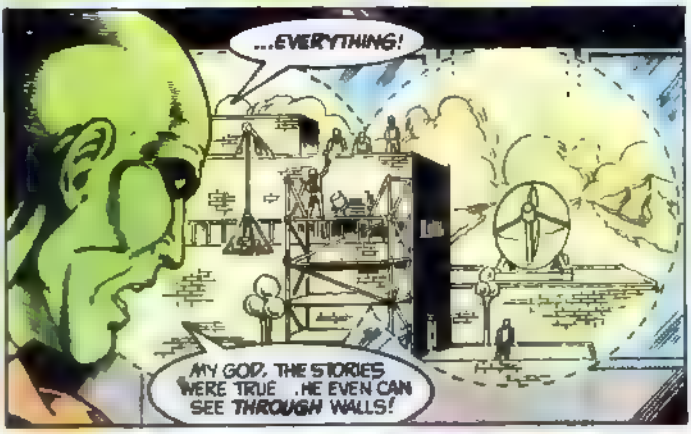
...TO WATCH HOW HE FIGHTS AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPENINGS!
YOU MEAN--
--LIKE THIS?!
SMEK
NO--
--THAT WAS A TRICK!
=?!?=
HOW DID HE DO THAT?! I DIDN'T EVEN SEE H M MOVE!
I'M GLAD NOBODY ELSE IS AROUND TO SEE THIS! I CAN IMAGINE THE HEADLINES..
"LOCAL STARMAN NOT SO HOT!"

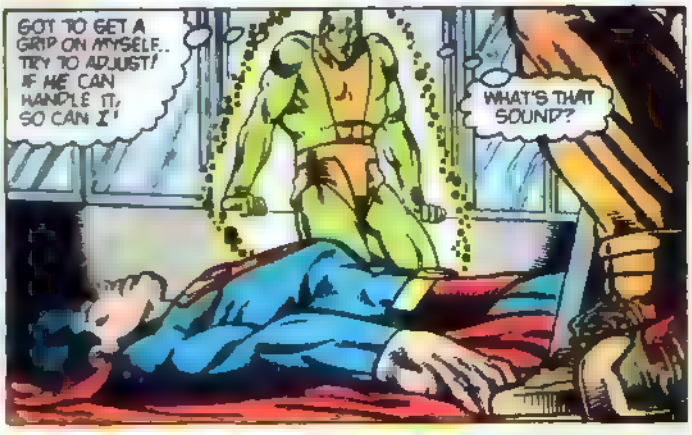
SORRY ABOUT THAT, STARMAN-- BUT THOSE ARE THE KINDS OF MOVES YOU HAVE TO ANTICIPATE. IF YOU LET YOUR OPPONENT CATCH YOU OFF BALANCE, HE CAN--
TURN THE TABLES?
WHA--?
NICE TO SEE--
--YOU'RE NOT INVULNERABLE TO SURPRISE!
HAH-HAH-HA!
THAT WAS FANTASTIC! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD ALTER YOUR FEATURES!
CAN YOU MAKE YOURSELF LOOK LIKE ANYBODY?
I GUESS.. I REALLY HAVEN'T PRACTICED THAT MUCH
YOU DEFINITELY SHOULD
13

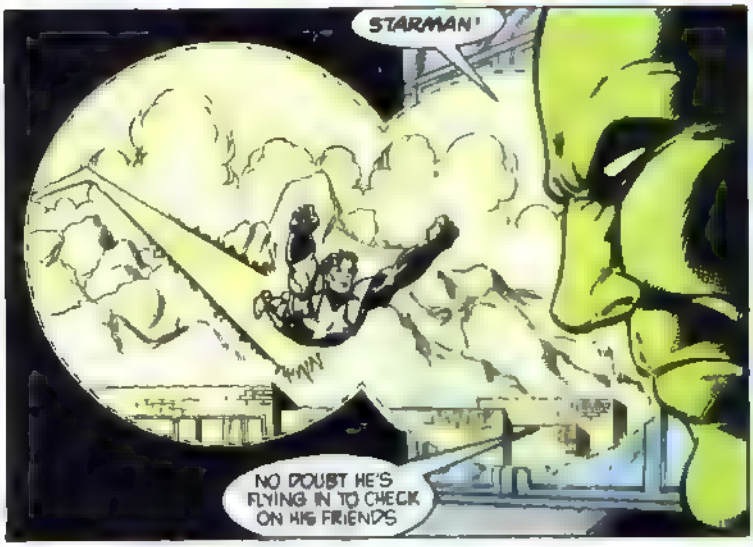
THAT ABILITY COULD GIVE YOU A GREAT ADVANTAGE OVER--!
WAIT!
YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
AN ULTRASONIC S.O.S.-- AND NOT THAT FAR AWAY!
LET'S GO!
HEY! WAIT--
--UP!
HOW FAST IS THIS GUY? FOR THAT MATTER, WHO WOULD BE SENDING A CALL FOR HELP--
--THAT ONLY HE COULD HEAR?"
KITTY! RELAX. I'LL HAVE YOU FREED IN A SECOND!
HOW'D YOU MANAGE TO SEND THAT TRANSMISSION?
SHE DIDN'T-- I DID!
YEAARGH!!
14


UUNGH! I'VE NEVER... ABSORBED SUCH ..POWER BEFORE!
THE SOUNDS. THE COLORS! I I CAN SEE BEYOND THE SPECTRUM! I'VE BEEN SO BLIND! WE'RE ALL SO BLIND COMPARED TO HIM
..COMPARED TO ME!

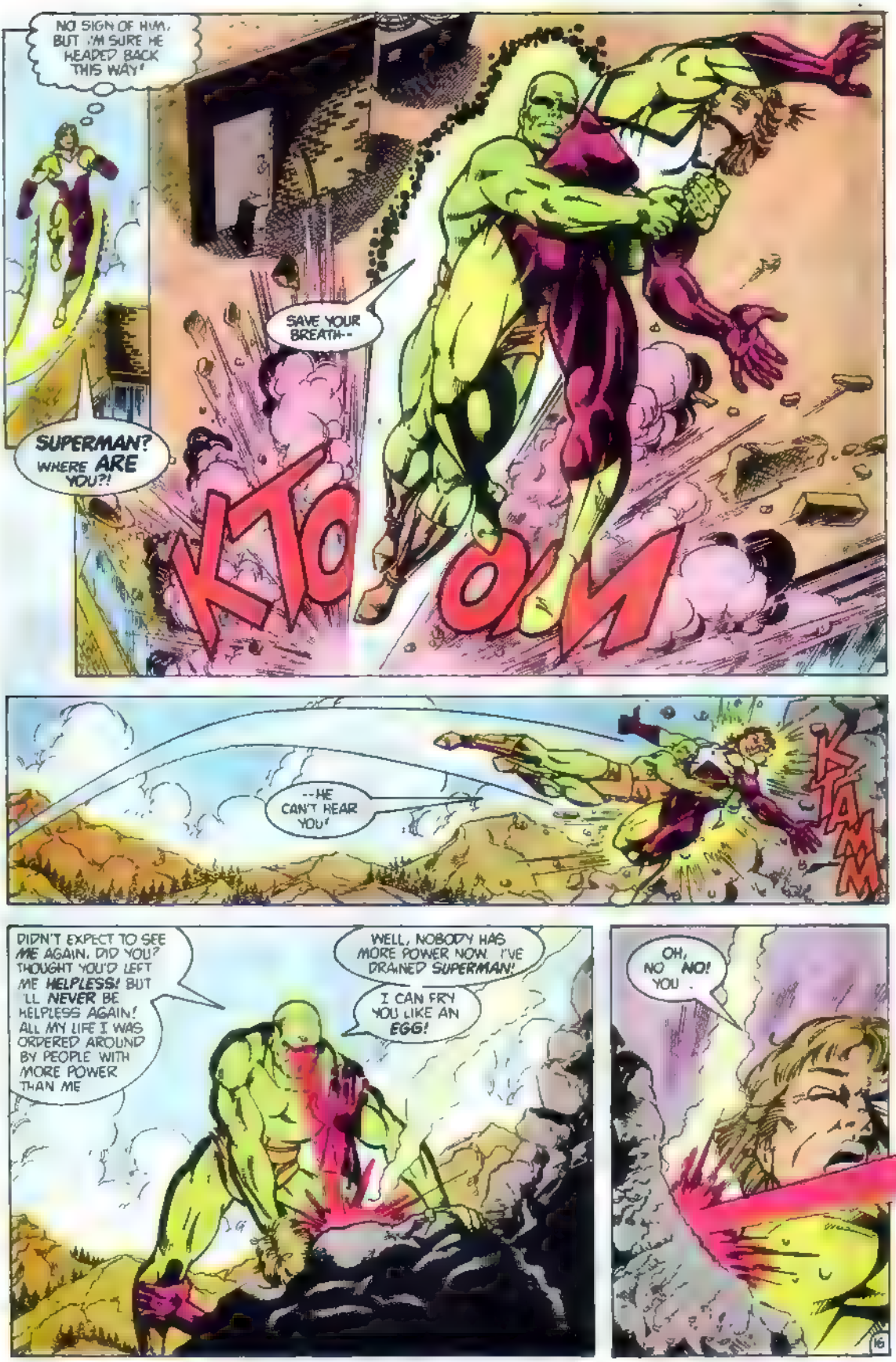
THIS IS MADNESS! HOW DOES HE "SEE" ANYTHING, WHEN HE CAN SEE...


...EVERYTHING!
MY GOD, THE STORIES WERE TRUE .HE EVEN CAN SEE THROUGH WALLS!


GOT TO GET A GRIP ON MYSELF.. TRY TO ADJUST! IF HE CAN HANDLE IT, SO CAN I!
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?


STARMAN!
NO DOUBT HE'S FLYING IN TO CHECK ON HIS FRIENDS

GOOD.


NO SIGN OF HIM, BUT I'M SURE HE HEADED BACK THIS WAY!
SUPERMAN? WHERE ARE YOU?!
SAVE YOUR BREATH--
KTOOM
--HE CAN'T HEAR YOU!
KTAAM
DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE ME AGAIN, DID YOU? THOUGHT YOU'D LEFT ME HELPLESS! BUT I'LL NEVER BE HELPLESS AGAIN! ALL MY LIFE I WAS ORDERED AROUND BY PEOPLE WITH MORE POWER THAN ME
WELL, NOBODY HAS MORE POWER NOW I'VE DRAINED SUPERMAN!
I CAN FRY YOU LIKE AN EGG!
OH, NO NO! YOU
16

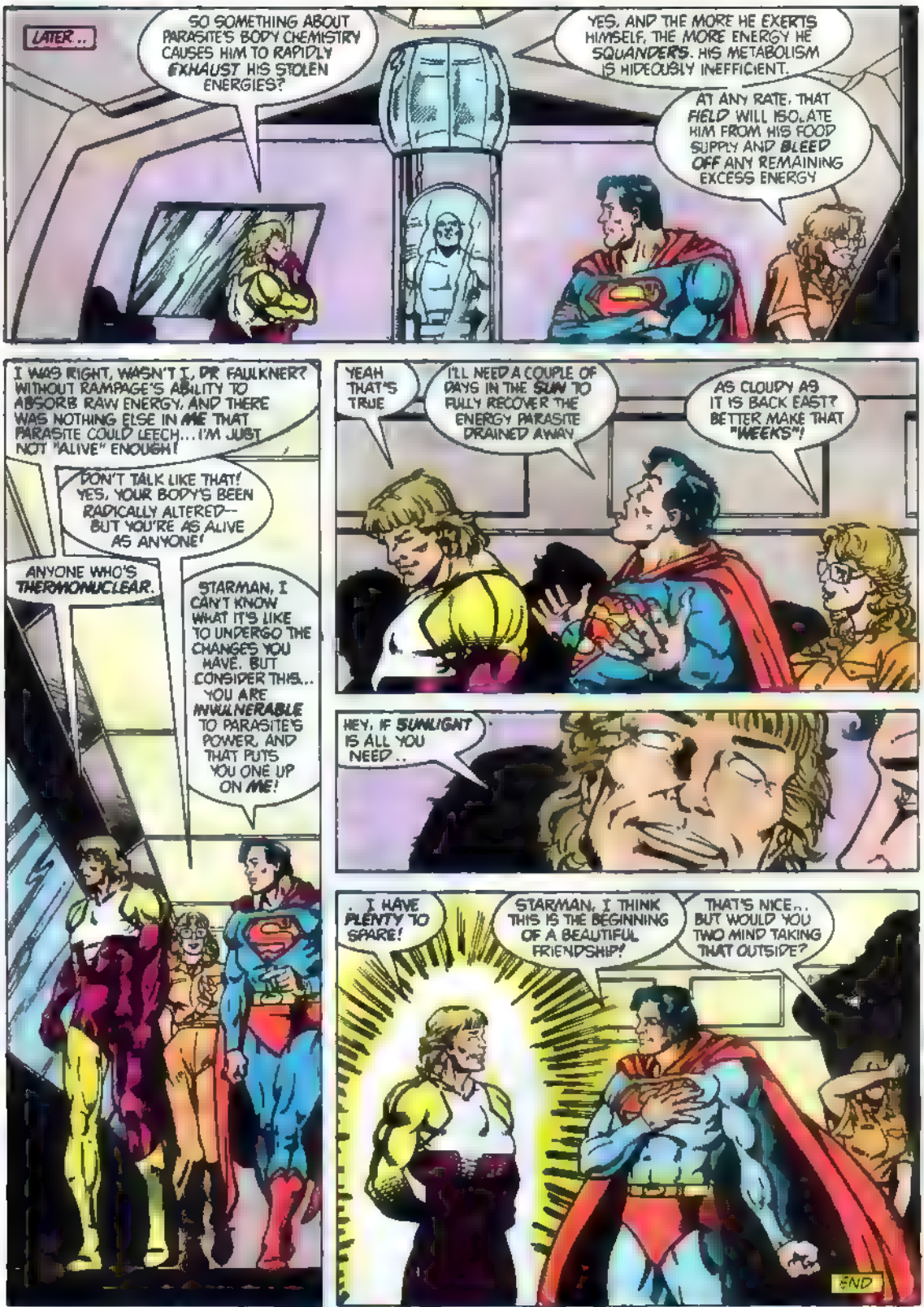
YOU KILLED SUPERMAN?!
STILL HAD A LITTLE FIGHT LEFT IN YOU, EH?
NO, I DIDN'T KILL HIM...NOT YET. AND MAYBE NEVER. MAYBE I'LL KEEP HIM AROUND. HE'D MAKE A GOOD RECHARGEABLE BATTERY.
THOK
SORRY, I HAVE OTHER PLANS!
THIS IS NO "FUN FIGHT," JUNIOR--
WHUD
--THIS IS FOR KEEPS!
NO KIDDING! IF I'D BEEN IN FRONT OF THAT SECOND PUNCH--
BUT I HAVE NO FURTHER NEED FOR YOU, FREAK! YOU DIE NOW!

"--I'D BE FLAT ON MY BACK, WONDERING..."
WHAT HIT ME?
:MMRRPH MMR-MMPH!:
KITTY--?
PARASITE... WAS PLAYING POSSUM IN THAT CONTAINMENT VESSEL LEECHING JUST ENOUGH ENERGY FROM PEOPLE. SO THAT HE COULD RE-FORM!
HOW DID HE KNOW TO ATTRACT MY ATTENTION WITH ULTRASONICS?
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME, HE WANTED NO PART OF MY RAMPAGE POWERS... HE DECIDED TO USE ME AS BAIT INSTEAD
I'M NOT SURE..
..UNLESS HE'D RETAINED TRACES OF MY KNOWLEDGE ALONG WITH THEIR LIFEFORCE. HE SEEMS TO ABSORB PARTIAL MEMORIES FROM HIS VICTIMS.
AND NOW HE HAS SOME DEGREE OF MY POWER?
I'M AFRAID SO. AND HE'S GONE AFTER STARMAN!
THEN I MUST FIND HIM! WITH THE POWER PARASITE'S STOLEN, HE COULD KILL STARMAN!
DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO HIM! IF HE ABSORBS MUCH MORE OF YOUR ENERGY, HE COULD KILL BOTH OF YOU!
I KNOW.
I FEEL LIKE I'M RUNNING ON FOUR CYLINDERS.. PARASITE MUST HAVE DRAINED OFF CLOSE TO HALF MY POWER. BUT EVEN HALF A SUPERMAN--
18

"--CAN BE DANGEROUS!"
BROK
NO ONE WILL EVER IGNORE ME AGAIN!
". . WATCH HOW HE FIGHTS. .TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPENINGS!"
THAT PUNCH HURT HIM MORE THAN MY EARLIER ONES DID. NOW WHY--?
YOU...YOU CAN'T STOP ME. . NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOU ARE! YOU'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD!
UH-OH.
COWARD! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME!
HEY, I'M JUST GETTING OUT OF THE WAY!
YES! THIS IS THE POWER I WAS DESTINED TO HAVE!
OUT OF THE WAY? OF . . WHAT?
19

THOOM
I HATE STRIKING FROM A DISTANCE, BUT I CAN'T LET THAT MONSTER GET ANY STRONGER!
K-KRACK
SUPERMAN!
FOR THAT I WILL DRAIN YOU DRY!
NOT SO FAST, GREEN-GENES! YOU'RE NOT FINISHED WITH ME YET!
20

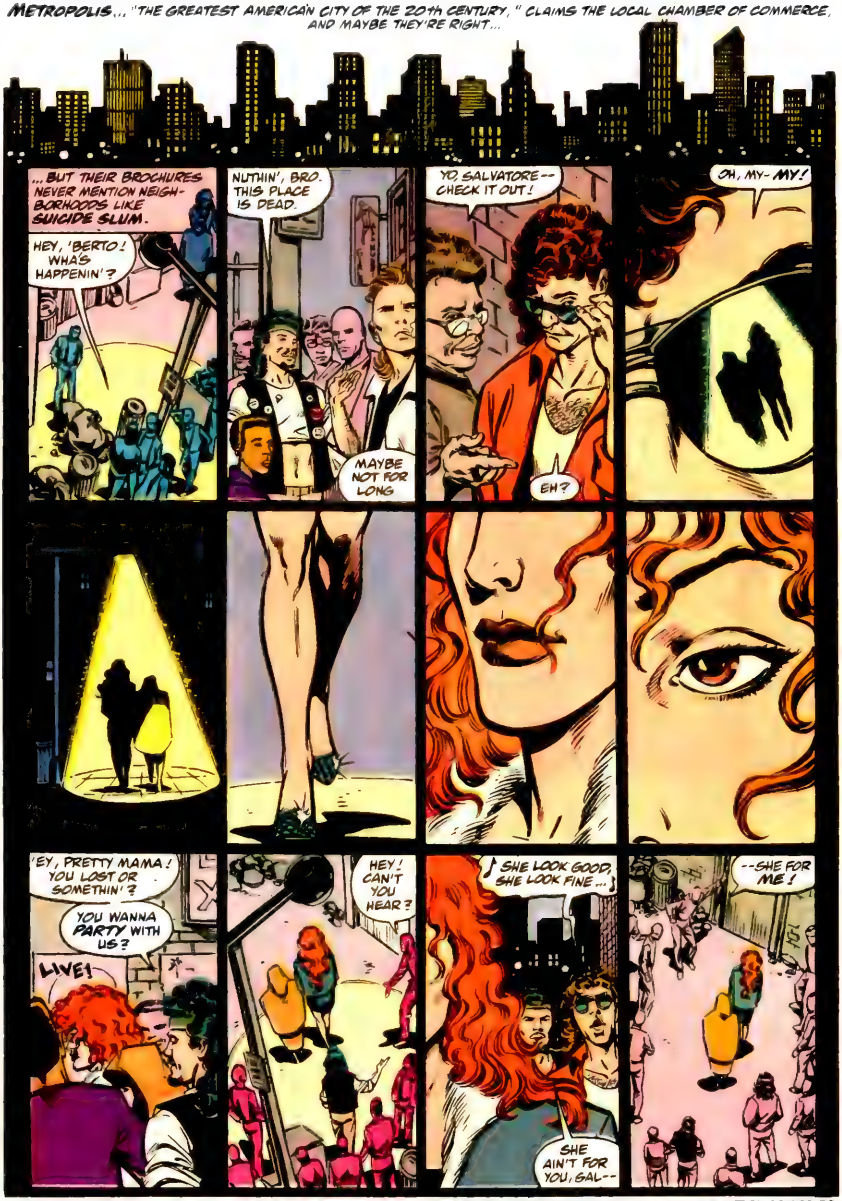
IDIOT! YOU'RE JUST A MOMENTARY ANNOYANCE! YOUR POWER IS NOTHING COMPARED TO MINE
GIVE IT A REST! YOU WERE SCARIER WHEN YOU WERE FIFTY FEET TALL AND I MANAGED TO BEAT YOU THEN!
BESIDES, YOU AREN'T HALF AS TOUGH AS YOU WERE A FEW MINUTES AGO RUNNING OUT OF STEAM!
YOU YOU ARE THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE WEAKENING!
ME? NEVER FELT BETTER!
THIS CAN'T BE! I DREW POWER FROM YOU BEFORE-- WHY CAN'T I NOW?!? I CAN DRAIN ENERGY FROM ANY LIVING THING!
I'M NOT LIKE ANY LIVING THING!
AND I'M NOBODY'S FREE LUNCH! BUT, HERE--
--LET ME GIVE YOU A PIECE OF MY MIND!
WONK
LOOKS LIKE A FIRST-RATE STARMAN DOES BEAT A SECOND-RATE SUPERMAN!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
CLAP! CLAP!
THANKS, TEACH!
21


LATER..
SO SOMETHING ABOUT PARASITE'S BODY CHEMISTRY CAUSES HIM TO RAPIDLY EXHAUST HIS STOLEN ENERGIES?
YES, AND THE MORE HE EXERTS HIMSELF, THE MORE ENERGY HE SQUANDERS. HIS METABOLISM IS HIDEOUSLY INEFFICIENT.
AT ANY RATE, THAT FIELD WILL ISOLATE HIM FROM HIS FOOD SUPPLY AND BLEED OFF ANY REMAINING EXCESS ENERGY
I WAS RIGHT, WASN'T I, DR FAULKNER? WITHOUT RAMPAGE'S ABILITY TO ABSORB RAW ENERGY, AND THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE IN ME THAT PARASITE COULD LEECH... I'M JUST NOT "ALIVE" ENOUGH!
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT! YES, YOUR BODY'S BEEN RADICALLY ALTERED-- BUT YOU'RE AS ALIVE AS ANYONE!
ANYONE WHO'S THERMONUCLEAR.
STARMAN, I CAN'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO UNDERGO THE CHANGES YOU HAVE. BUT CONSIDER THIS... YOU ARE INVULNERABLE TO PARASITE'S POWER, AND THAT PUTS YOU ONE UP ON ME!
YEAH THAT'S TRUE
I'LL NEED A COUPLE OF DAYS IN THE SUN TO FULLY RECOVER THE ENERGY PARASITE DRAINED AWAY
AS CLOUDY AS IT IS BACK EAST? BETTER MAKE THAT "WEEKS"!
HEY, IF SUNLIGHT IS ALL YOU NEED..
I HAVE PLENTY TO SPARE!
STARMAN, I THINK THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP!
THAT'S NICE.. BUT WOULD YOU TWO MIND TAKING THAT OUTSIDE?
END

NEXT ISSUE: MEET THE WORLD'S MOST FEARED HITMAN...

DEADLINE!

AND DON'T MISS STARMAN'S CAMEO APPEARANCE IN ACTION COMICS #645!


METROPOLIS... "THE GREATEST AMERICAN CITY OF THE 20th CENTURY," CLAIMS THE LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND MAYBE THEY'RE RIGHT...
...BUT THEIR BROCHURES NEVER MENTION NEIGHBORHOODS LIKE SUICIDE SLUM.
HEY, 'BERTO! WHA'S HAPPENIN'?
NUTHIN', BRO. THIS PLACE IS DEAD.
MAYBE NOT FOR LONG
YO, SALVATORE-- CHECK IT OUT!
EH?
OH, MY- MY!
'EY, PRETTY MAMA! YOU LOST OR SOMETHIN'?
YOU WANNA PARTY WITH US?
LIVE!
HEY! CAN'T YOU HEAR?
♪ SHE LOOK GOOD, SHE LOOK FINE... ♪
SHE AIN'T FOR YOU, GAL--
--SHE FOR ME!

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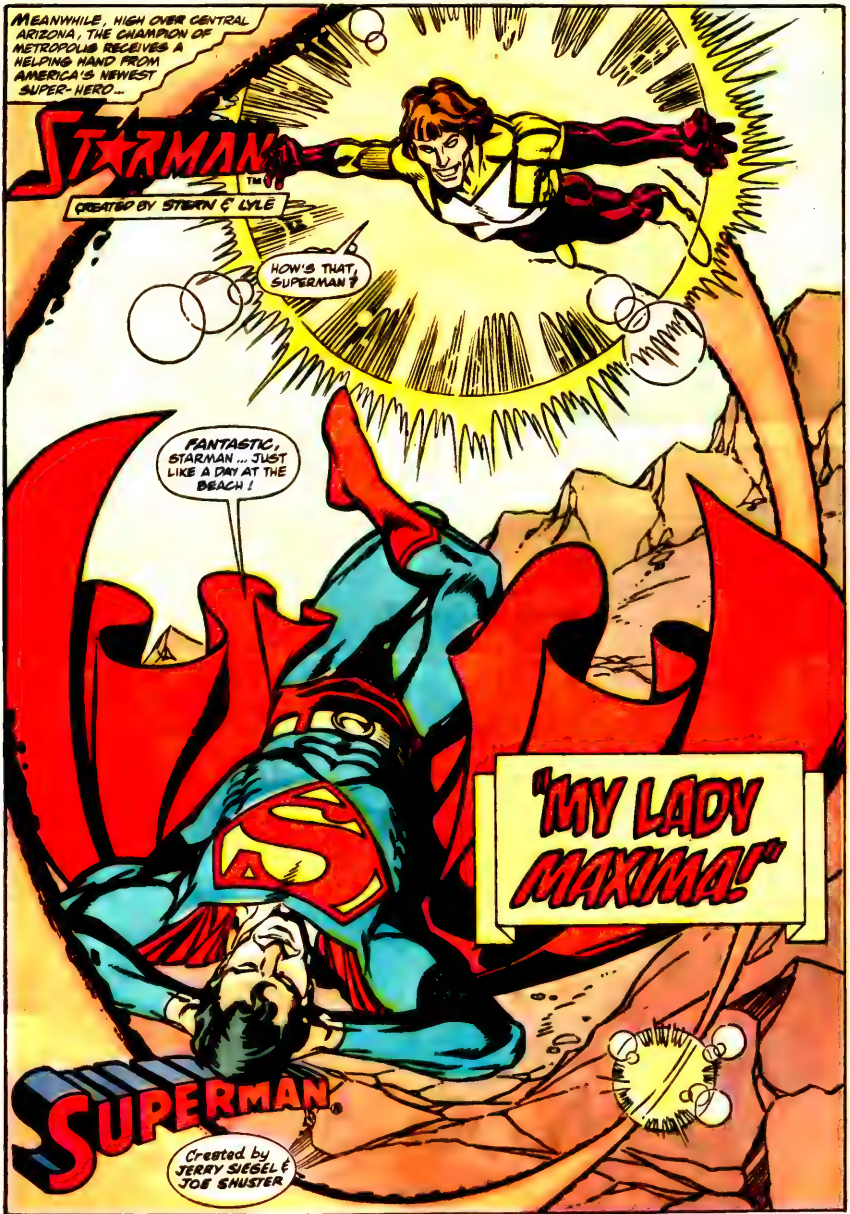
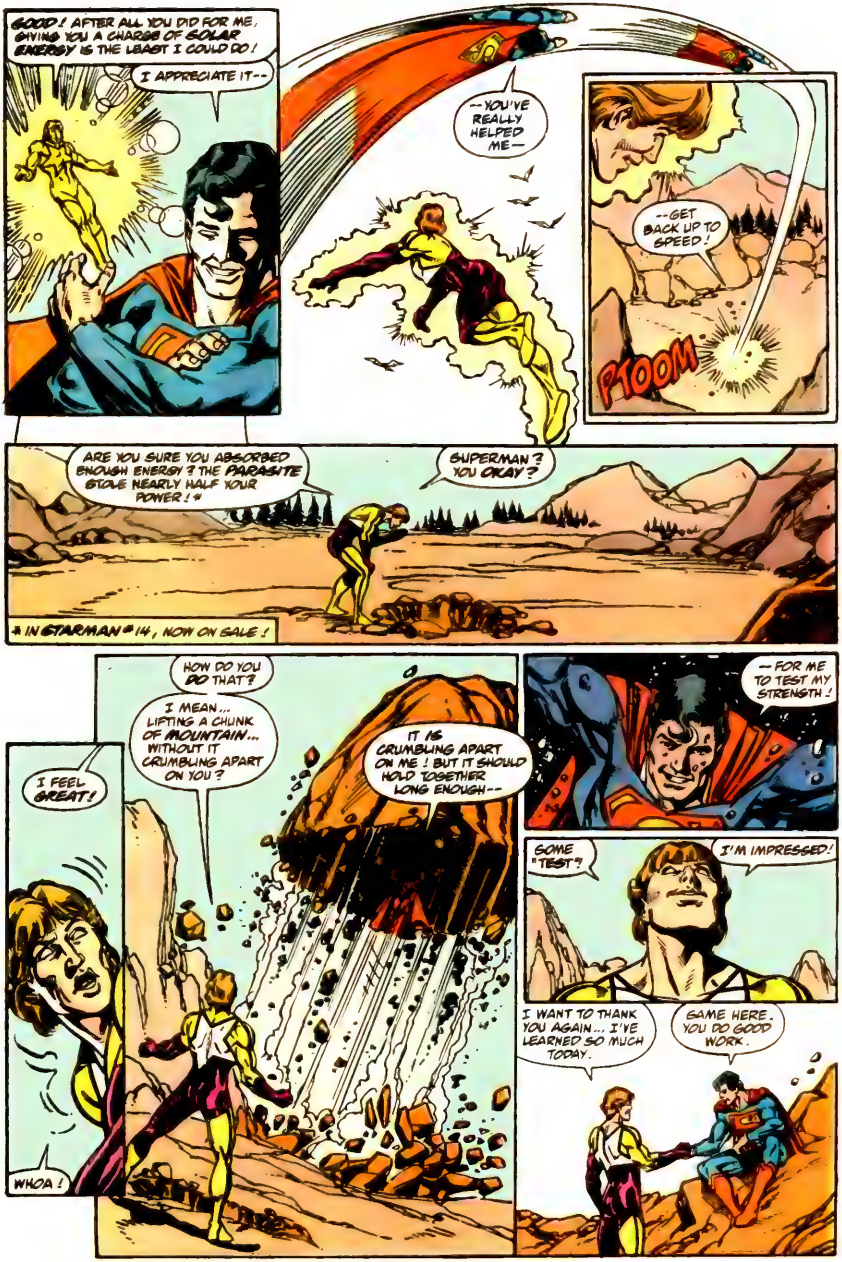
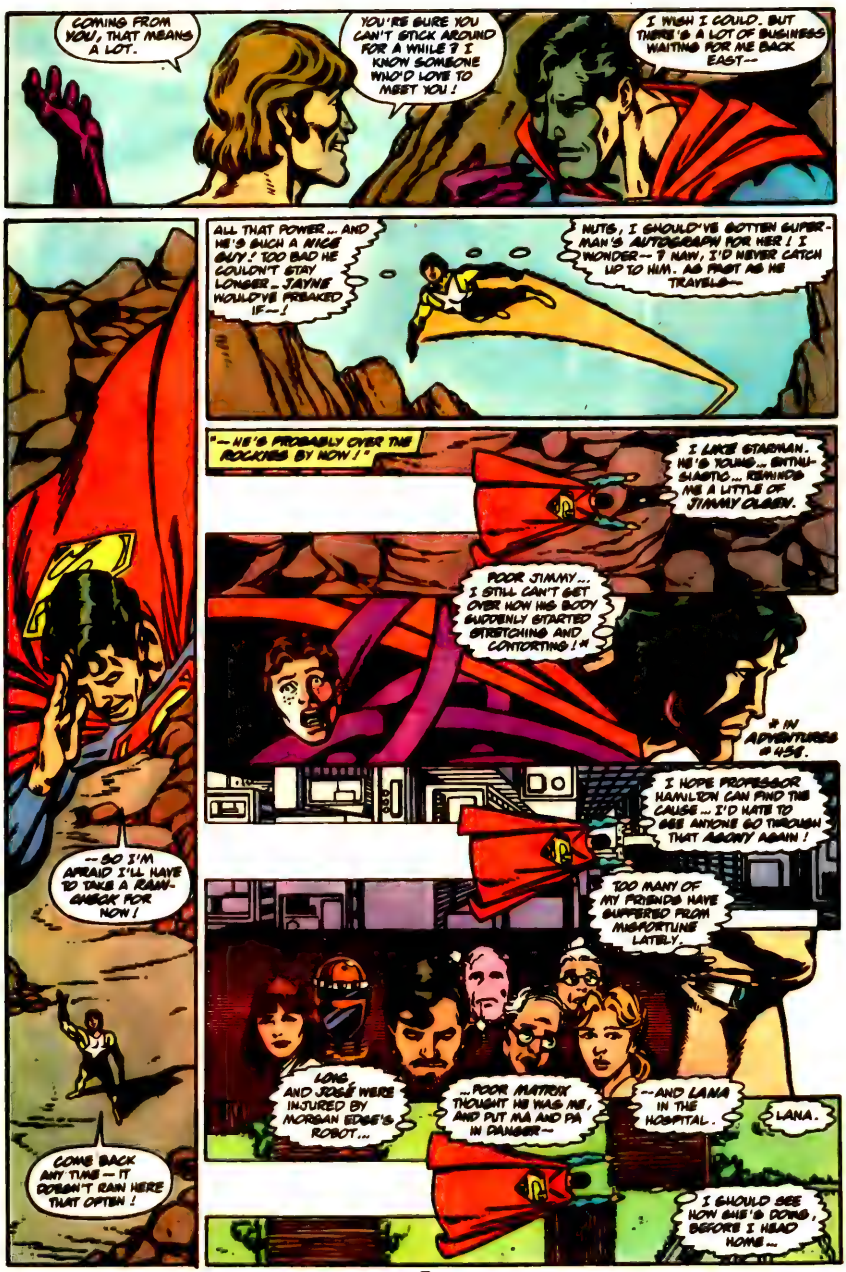
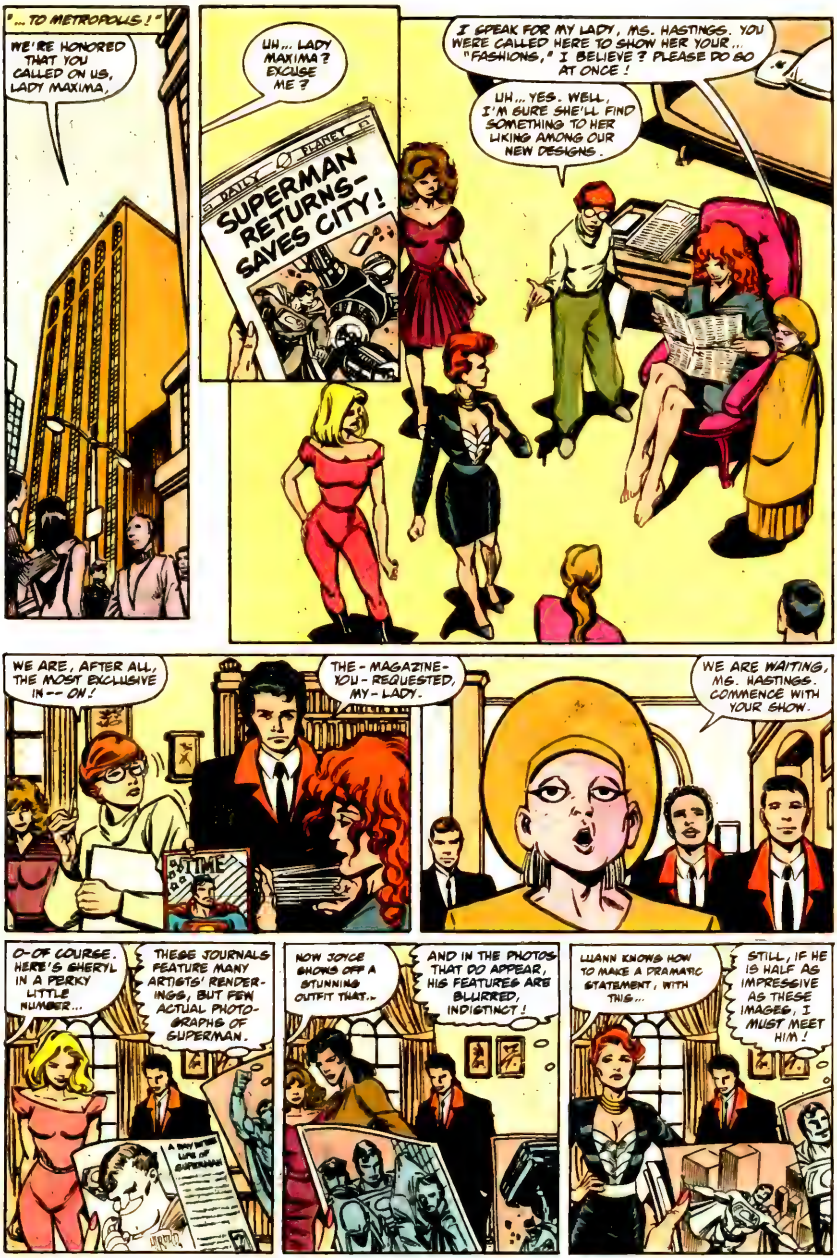
AIN'T THAT RIGHT? YOU READY TO PARTY WITH 'BERTO, AIN'T YOU?
'SMATTER? YOU 'FRAID TO TALK?
'EY, I TREAT YOU RIGHT!
HOLD! NO ONE MAY TOUCH MY LADY MAXIMA!
LET US PASS OR FACE THE CONSE-QUENCES!
LISSEN, OLD CON! IF YOUR "LADY" AIN'T NICE TO ME, I BE BAD TO HER--REAL BAD!
WHA--?!?
THREATS TO MY LADY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED! THERE CAN BE BUT ONE PUNISHMENT!
MY LADY IS IN NEED OF SERVANTS. YOU WILL ALL COME WITH ME.

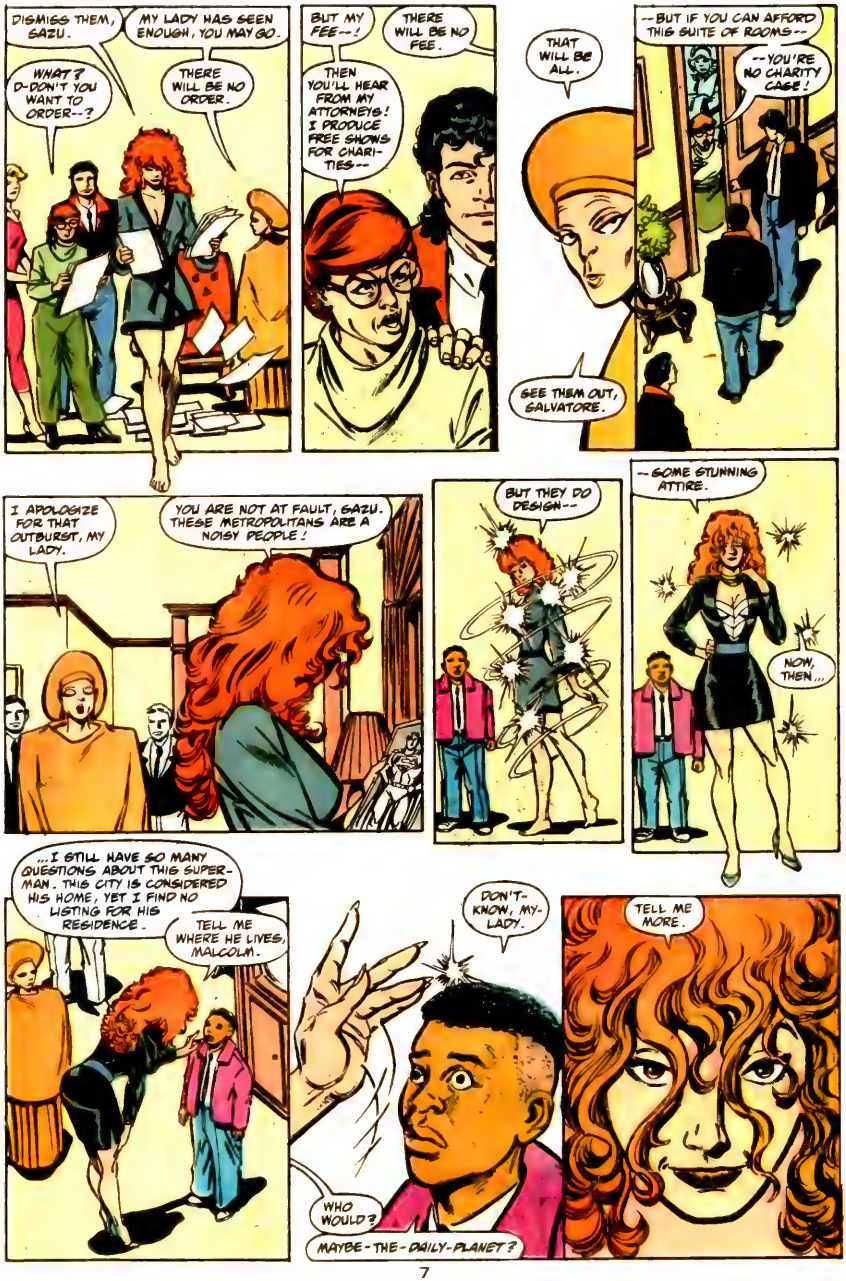

MEANWHILE, HIGH OVER CENTRAL ARIZONA, THE CHAMPION OF METROPOLIS RECEIVES A HELPING HAND FROM AMERICA'S NEWEST SUPER-HERO...
STARMAN™
CREATED BY STERN & LYLE
HOW'S THAT, SUPERMAN?
FANTASTIC, STARMAN... JUST LIKE A DAY AT THE BEACH!
"MY LADY MAXIMA!"
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

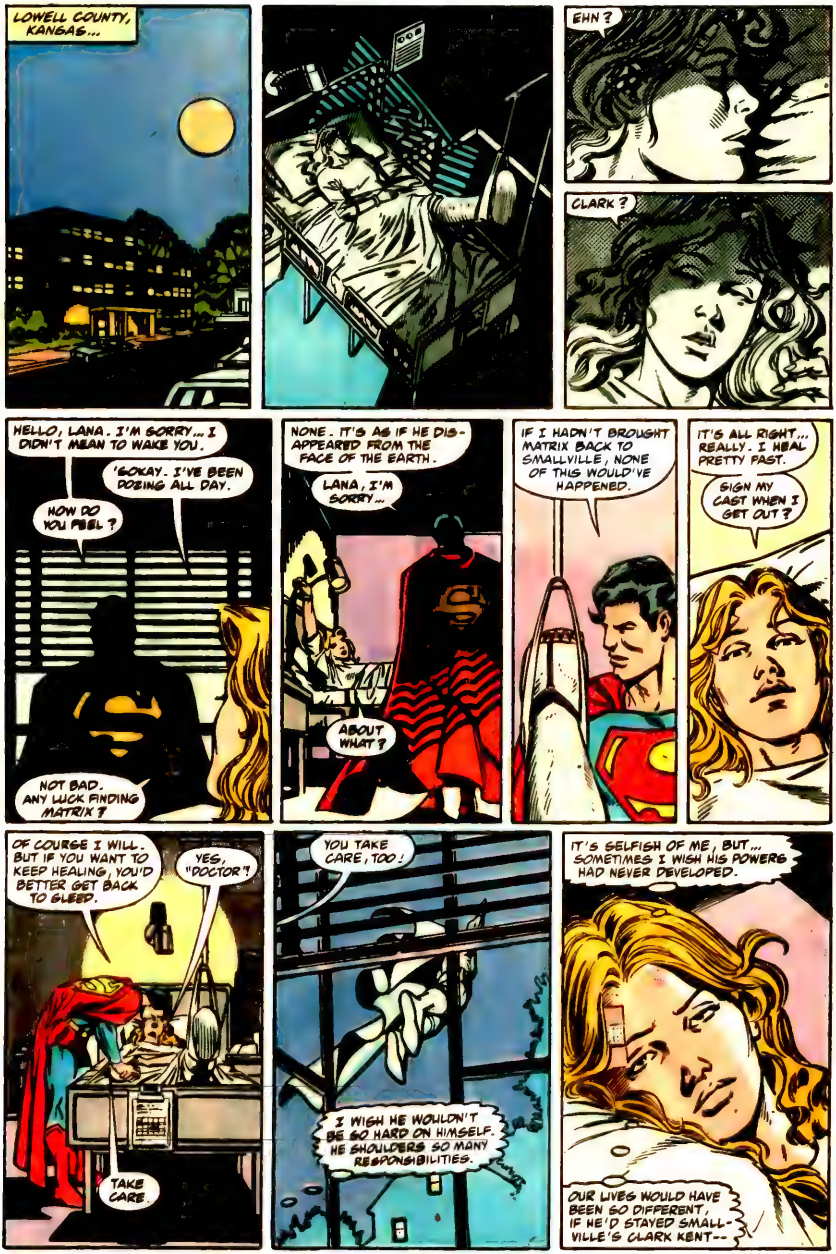
ROGER STERN & GEORGE PEREZ STORY | GEORGE PEREZ & BRETT BREEDING ART | BILL OAKLEY ~ lettering GLENN WHITMORE ~ coloring | JON PETERSON ASSOCIATING | MIKE CARLIN EDITING

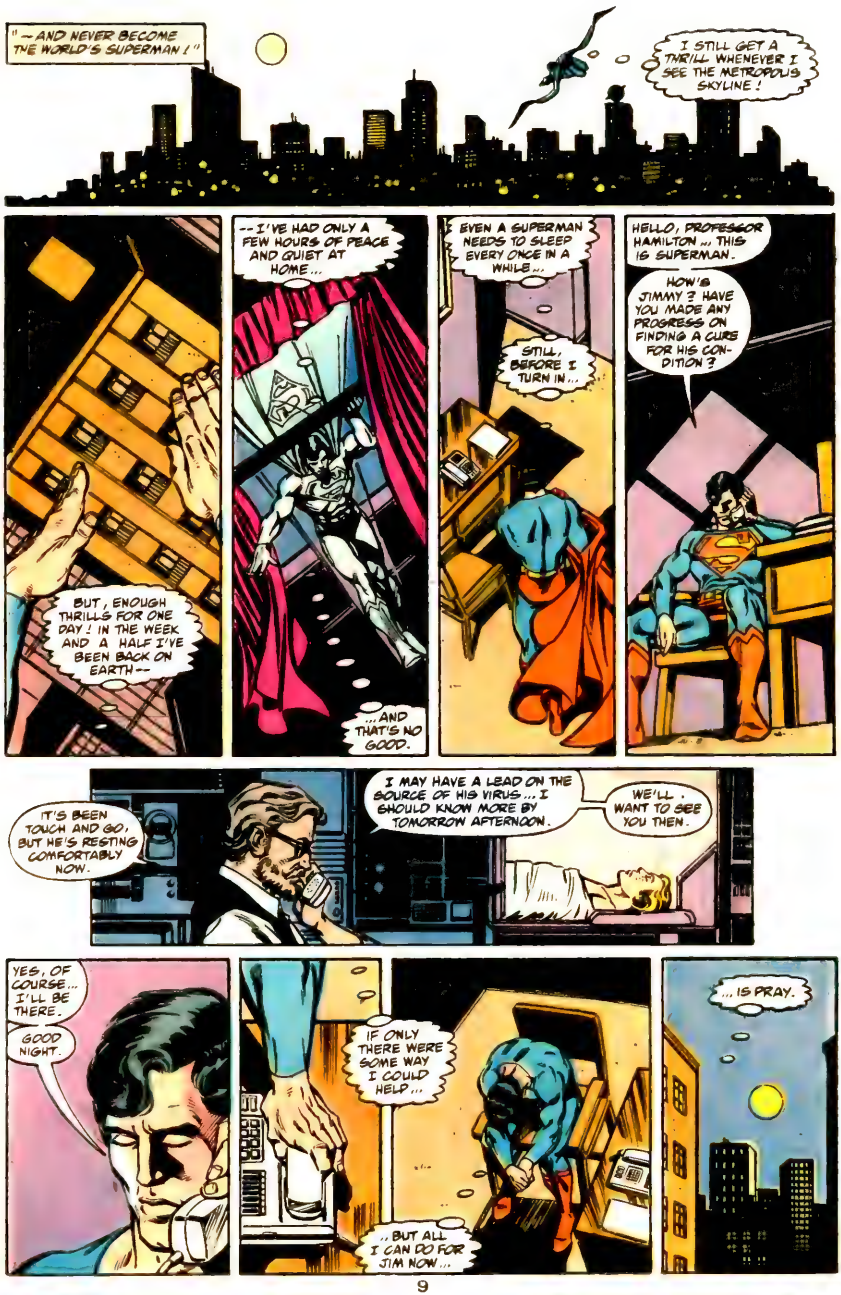

GOOD! AFTER ALL YOU DID FOR ME, GIVING YOU A CHARGE OF SOLAR ENERGY IS THE LEAST I COULD DO!
I APPRECIATE IT--
--YOU'VE REALLY HELPED ME--
--GET BACK UP TO SPEED!
PTOOM
ARE YOU SURE YOU ABSORBED ENOUGH ENERGY? THE PARASITE STOLE NEARLY HALF YOUR POWER!"
SUPERMAN? YOU OKAY?
IN STARMAN #14, NOW ON SALE!
HOW DO YOU DO THAT?
I MEAN... LIFTING A CHUNK OF MOUNTAIN... WITHOUT IT CRUMBLING APART ON YOU?
IT IS CRUMBLING APART ON ME! BUT IT SHOULD HOLD TOGETHER LONG ENOUGH--
I FEEL GREAT!
WHOA!
--FOR ME TO TEST MY STRENGTH!
SOME "TEST"?
I'M IMPRESSED!
I WANT TO THANK YOU AGAIN... I'VE LEARNED SO MUCH TODAY.
GAME HERE. YOU DO GOOD WORK.

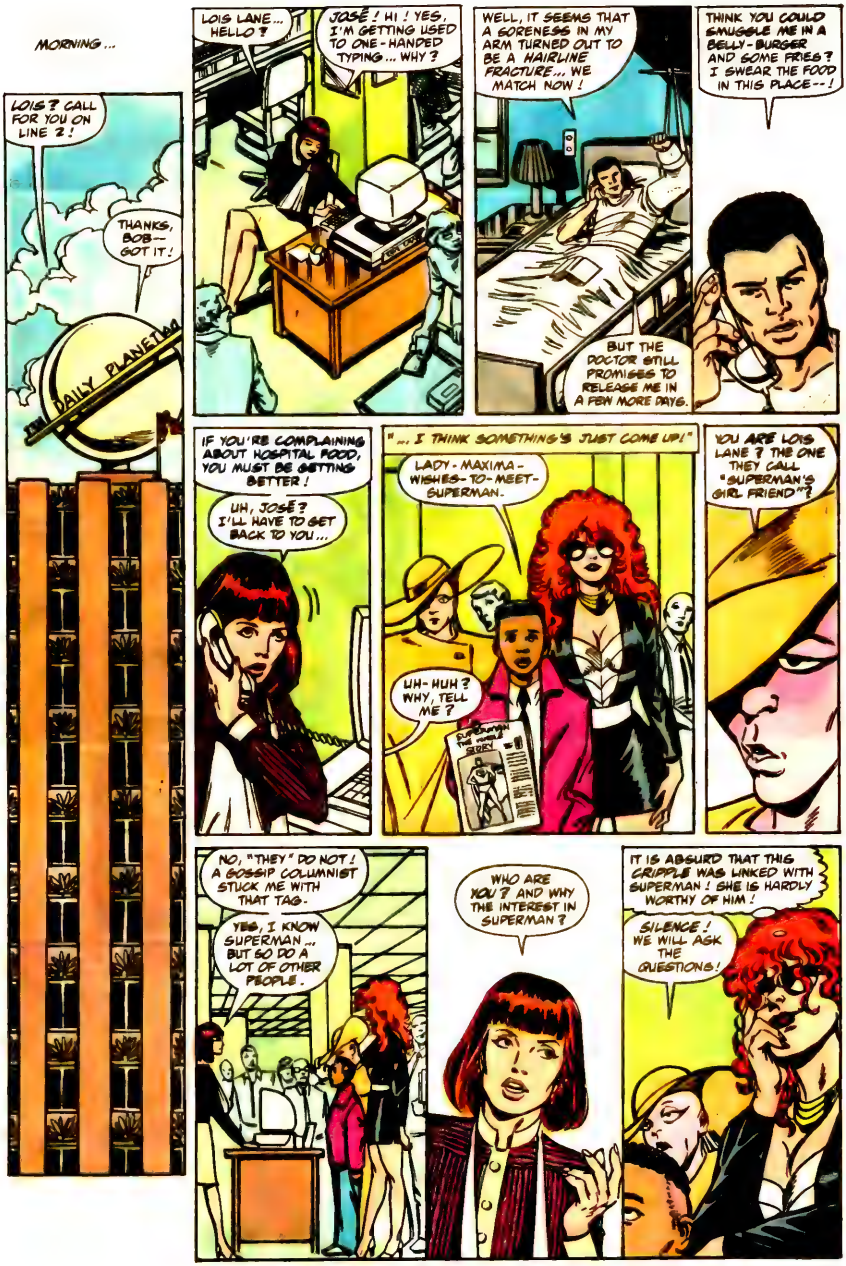

COMING FROM YOU, THAT MEANS A LOT.
YOU'RE SURE YOU CAN'T STICK AROUND FOR A WHILE? I KNOW SOMEONE WHO'D LOVE TO MEET YOU!
I WISH I COULD. BUT THERE'S A LOT OF BUSINESS WAITING FOR ME BACK EAST--
ALL THAT POWER... AND HE'S SUCH A NICE GUY. TOO BAD HE COULDN'T STAY LONGER. JAYNE WOULD'VE FREAKED IF--!
NUTS, I SHOULD'VE GOTTEN SUPERMAN'S AUTOGRAPH FOR HER! I WONDER--? NAW, I'D NEVER CATCH UP TO HIM. AS FAST AS HE TRAVELS--
"--HE'S PROBABLY OVER THE ROCKIES BY NOW!"
I LIKE STARMAN. HE'S YOUNG... ENTHUSIASTIC... REMINDS ME A LITTLE OF JIMMY OLSEN.
POOR JIMMY... I STILL CAN'T GET OVER HOW HIS BODY SUDDENLY STARTED STRETCHING AND CONTORTING!*
* IN ADVENTURES #454.
I HOPE PROFESSOR HAMILTON CAN FIND THE CAUSE... I'D HATE TO SEE ANYONE GO THROUGH THAT AGONY AGAIN!
TOO MANY OF MY FRIENDS HAVE SUFFERED FROM MISFORTUNE LATELY.
--SO I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A RAIN-CHECK FOR NOW!
LONG AND JOSE WERE INJURED BY MORGAN EDGE'S ROBOT...
...POOR MATRIX THOUGHT HE WAS ME, AND PUT MA AND PA IN DANGER--
--AND LANA IN THE HOSPITAL.
LANA.
I SHOULD SEE HOW SHE'S DOING, BEFORE I HEAD HOME...
COME BACK ANY TIME -- IT DOESN'T RAIN HERE THAT OFTEN!

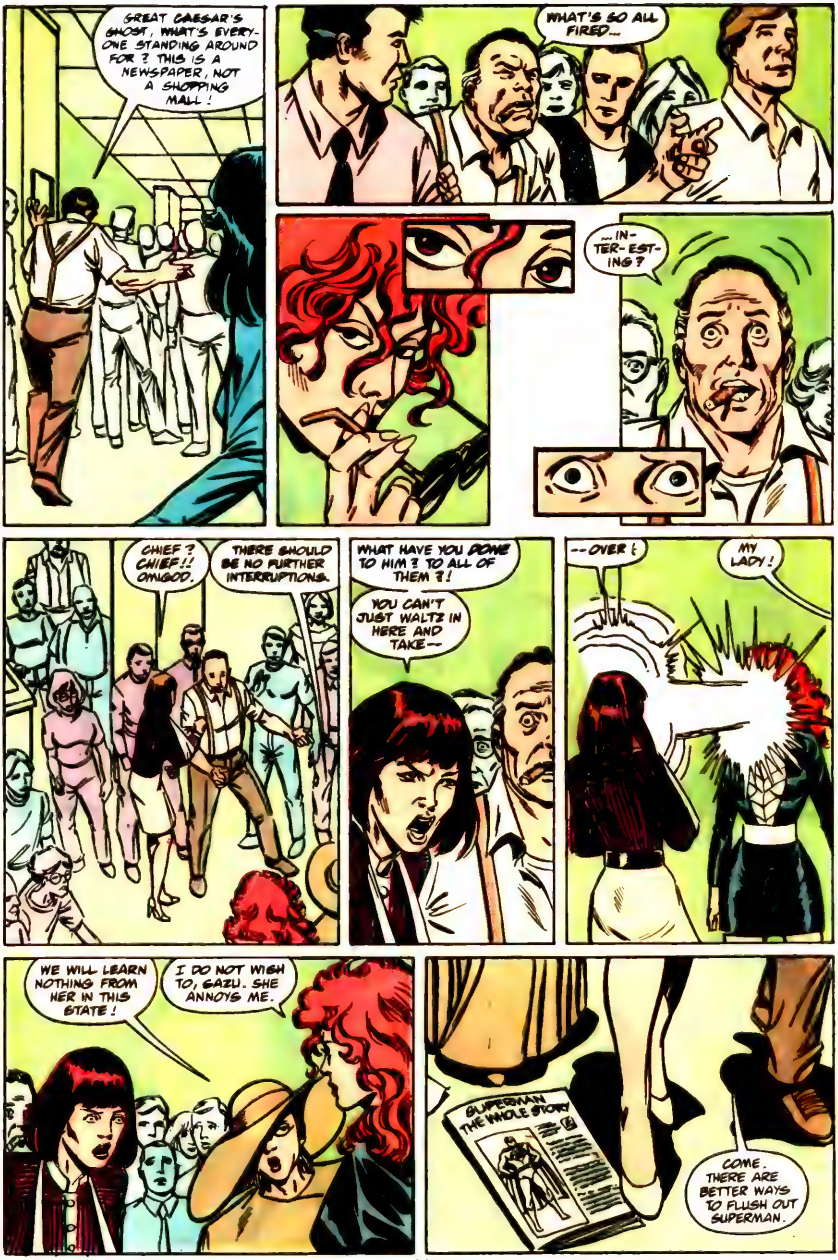

"...TO METROPOLIS!"
WE'RE HONORED THAT YOU CALLED ON US, LADY MAXIMA.
UH... LADY MAXIMA? EXCUSE ME?
DAILY PLANET
SUPERMAN RETURNS- SAVES CITY!
I SPEAK FOR MY LADY, MS. HASTINGS. YOU WERE CALLED HERE TO SHOW HER YOUR... "FASHIONS," I BELIEVE? PLEASE DO SO AT ONCE!
UH... YES. WELL, I'M SURE SHE'LL FIND SOMETHING TO HER LIKING AMONG OUR NEW DESIGNS.
WE ARE, AFTER ALL, THE MOST EXCLUSIVE IN-- OH!
TIME
THE-MAGAZINE-YOU-REQUESTED, MY-LADY.
WE ARE WAITING, MS. HASTINGS. COMMENCE WITH YOUR SHOW.
O-OF COURSE. HERE'S SHERYL IN A PERKY LITTLE NUMBER...
THESE JOURNALS FEATURE MANY ARTISTS' RENDERINGS, BUT FEW ACTUAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUPERMAN.
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SUPERMAN
NOW JOYCE SHOWS OFF A STUNNING OUTFIT THAT...
AND IN THE PHOTOS THAT DO APPEAR, HIS FEATURES ARE BLURRED, INDISTINCT!
LUANN KNOWS HOW TO MAKE A DRAMATIC STATEMENT, WITH THIS...
STILL, IF HE IS HALF AS IMPRESSIVE AS THESE IMAGES, I MUST MEET HIM!

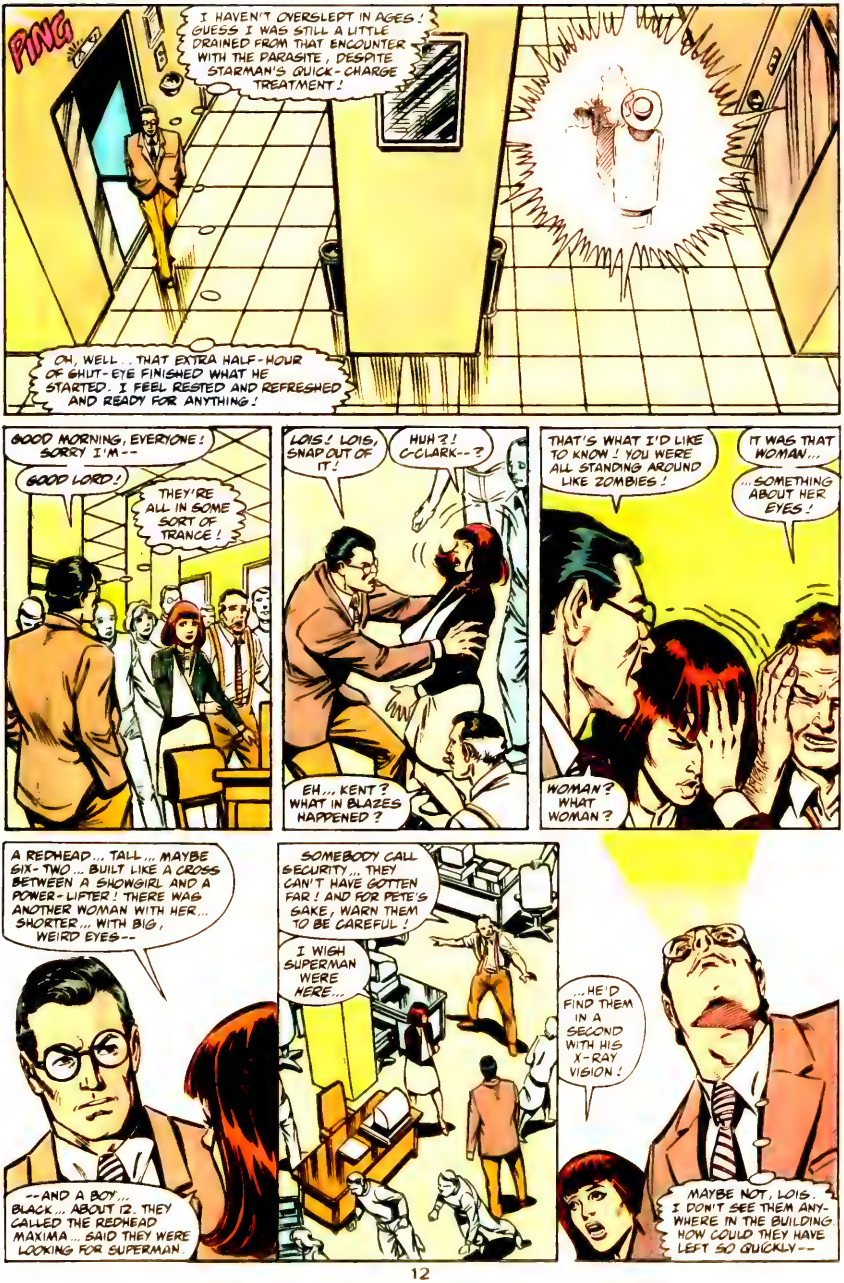

DISMISS THEM, SAZU.
MY LADY HAS SEEN ENOUGH, YOU MAY GO.
WHAT? D-DON'T YOU WANT TO ORDER--?
THERE WILL BE NO ORDER.
BUT MY FEE--!
THERE WILL BE NO FEE.
THEN YOU'LL HEAR FROM MY ATTORNEYS! I PRODUCE FREE SHOWS FOR CHARITIES--
THAT WILL BE ALL.
--BUT IF YOU CAN AFFORD THIS SUITE OF ROOMS--
--YOU'RE NO CHARITY CASE!
SEE THEM OUT, SALVATORE.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THAT OUTBURST, MY LADY.
YOU ARE NOT AT FAULT, SAZU. THESE METROPOLITANS ARE A NOISY PEOPLE!
BUT THEY DO DESIGN--
--SOME STUNNING ATTIRE.
NOW, THEN...
...I STILL HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUPERMAN. THIS CITY IS CONSIDERED HIS HOME, YET I FIND NO LISTING FOR HIS RESIDENCE.
TELL ME WHERE HE LIVES, MALCOLM.
DON'T-KNOW, MY-LADY.
TELL ME MORE.
WHO WOULD?
MAYBE-THE-DAILY-PLANET?

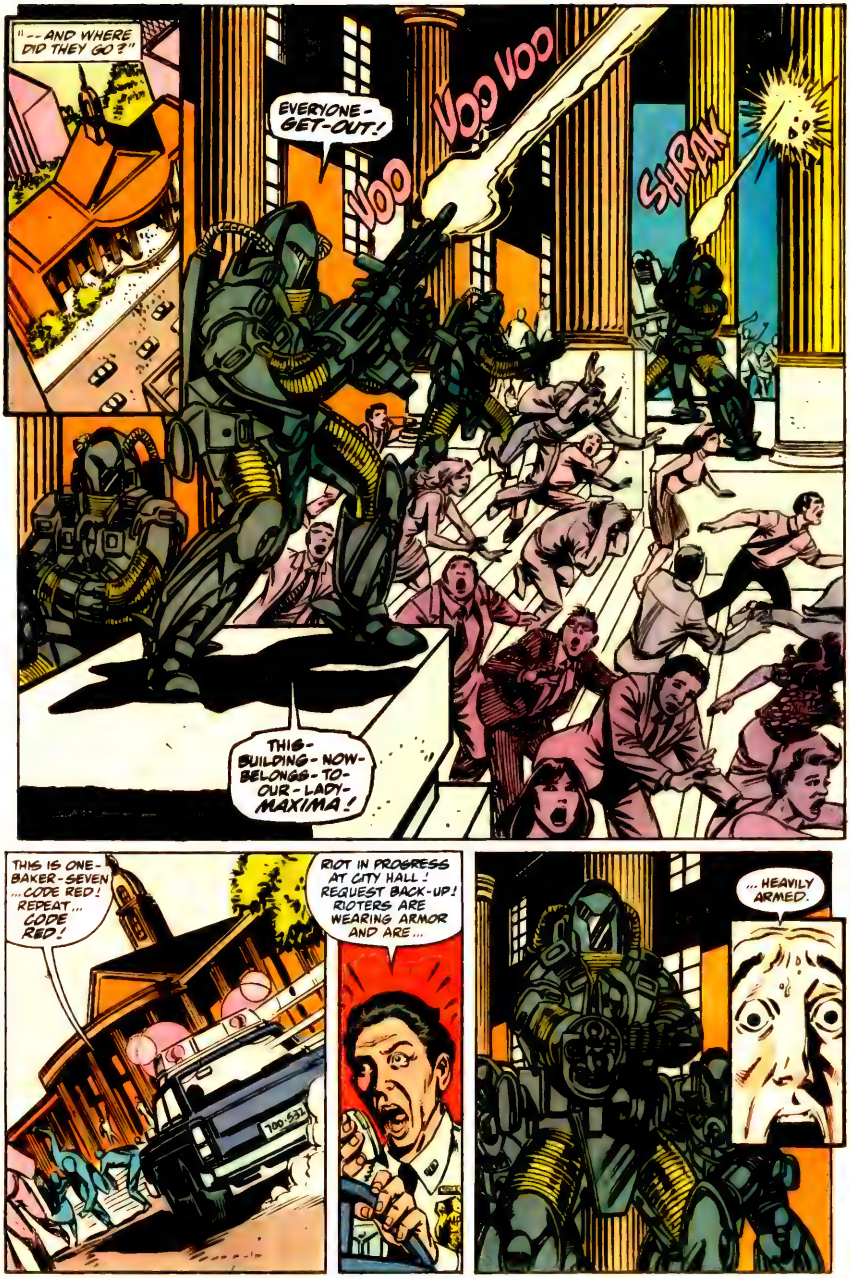

LOWELL COUNTY, KANSAS...
EHN?
CLARK?
HELLO, LANA. I'M SORRY... I DIDN'T MEAN TO WAKE YOU.
'GOKAY. I'VE BEEN DOZING ALL DAY.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
NOT BAD. ANY LUCK FINDING MATRIX?
NONE. IT'S AS IF HE DISAPPEARED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH.
LANA, I'M SORRY...
ABOUT WHAT?
IF I HADN'T BROUGHT MATRIX BACK TO SMALLVILLE, NONE OF THIS WOULD'VE HAPPENED.
IT'S ALL RIGHT... REALLY. I HEAL PRETTY FAST.
SIGN MY CAST WHEN I GET OUT?
OF COURSE I WILL. BUT IF YOU WANT TO KEEP HEALING, YOU'D BETTER GET BACK TO SLEEP.
YES, "DOCTOR"!
TAKE CARE.
YOU TAKE CARE, TOO!
I WISH HE WOULDN'T BE SO HARD ON HIMSELF. HE SHOULDERS SO MANY RESPONSIBILITIES.
IT'S SELFISH OF ME, BUT... SOMETIMES I WISH HIS POWERS HAD NEVER DEVELOPED.
OUR LIVES WOULD HAVE BEEN SO DIFFERENT, IF HE'D STAYED SMALLVILLE'S CLARK KENT--

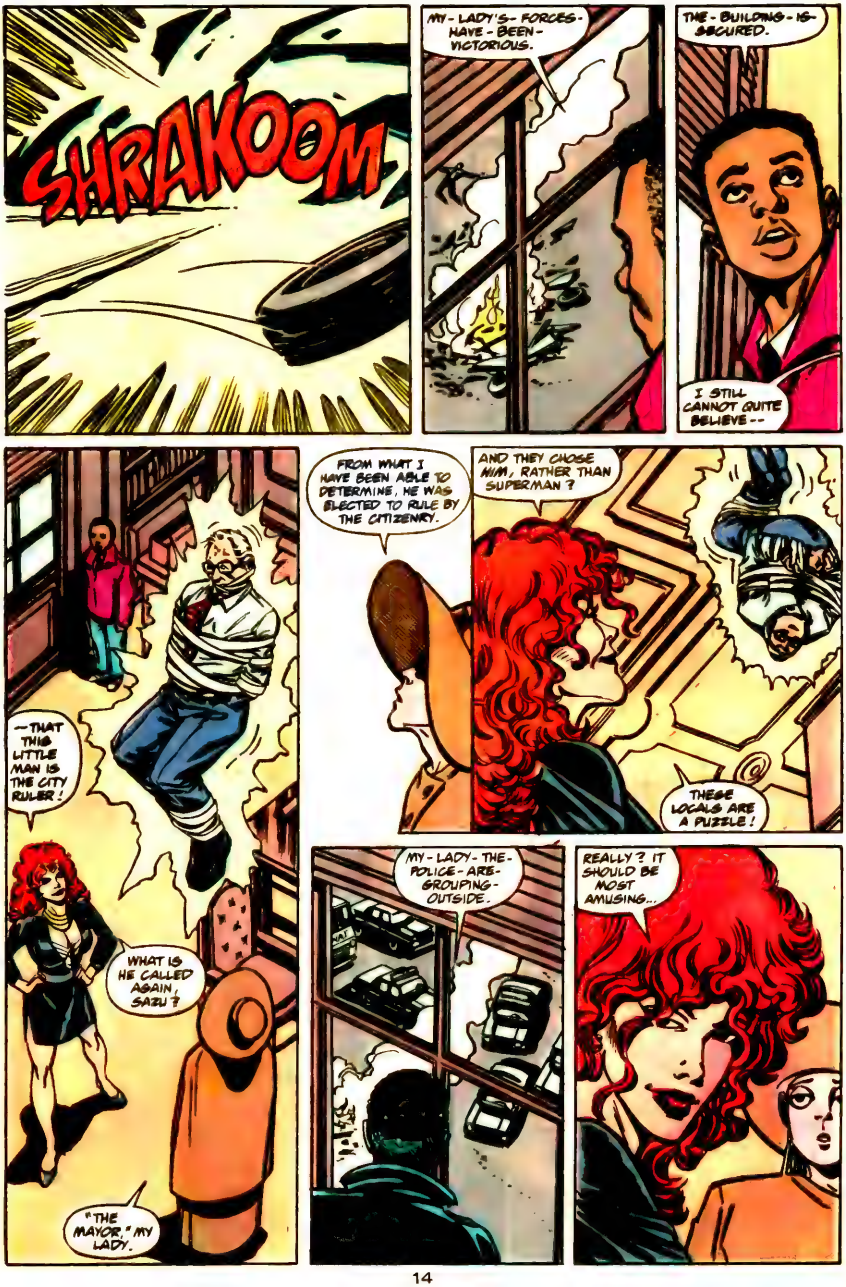

"—AND NEVER BECOME THE WORLD'S SUPERMAN!"
I STILL GET A THRILL WHENEVER I SEE THE METROPOLIS SKYLINE!
BUT, ENOUGH THRILLS FOR ONE DAY! IN THE WEEK AND A HALF I'VE BEEN BACK ON EARTH—
—I'VE HAD ONLY A FEW HOURS OF PEACE AND QUIET AT HOME...
...AND THAT'S NO GOOD.
EVEN A SUPERMAN NEEDS TO SLEEP EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE...
STILL, BEFORE I TURN IN...
HELLO, PROFESSOR HAMILTON... THIS IS SUPERMAN.
HOW'S JIMMY? HAVE YOU MADE ANY PROGRESS ON FINDING A CURE FOR HIS CONDITION?
IT'S BEEN TOUCH AND GO, BUT HE'S RESTING COMFORTABLY NOW.
I MAY HAVE A LEAD ON THE SOURCE OF HIS VIRUS... I SHOULD KNOW MORE BY TOMORROW AFTERNOON.
WE'LL WANT TO SEE YOU THEN.
YES, OF COURSE... I'LL BE THERE.
GOOD NIGHT.
IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME WAY I COULD HELP...
...BUT ALL I CAN DO FOR JIM NOW...
...IS PRAY.

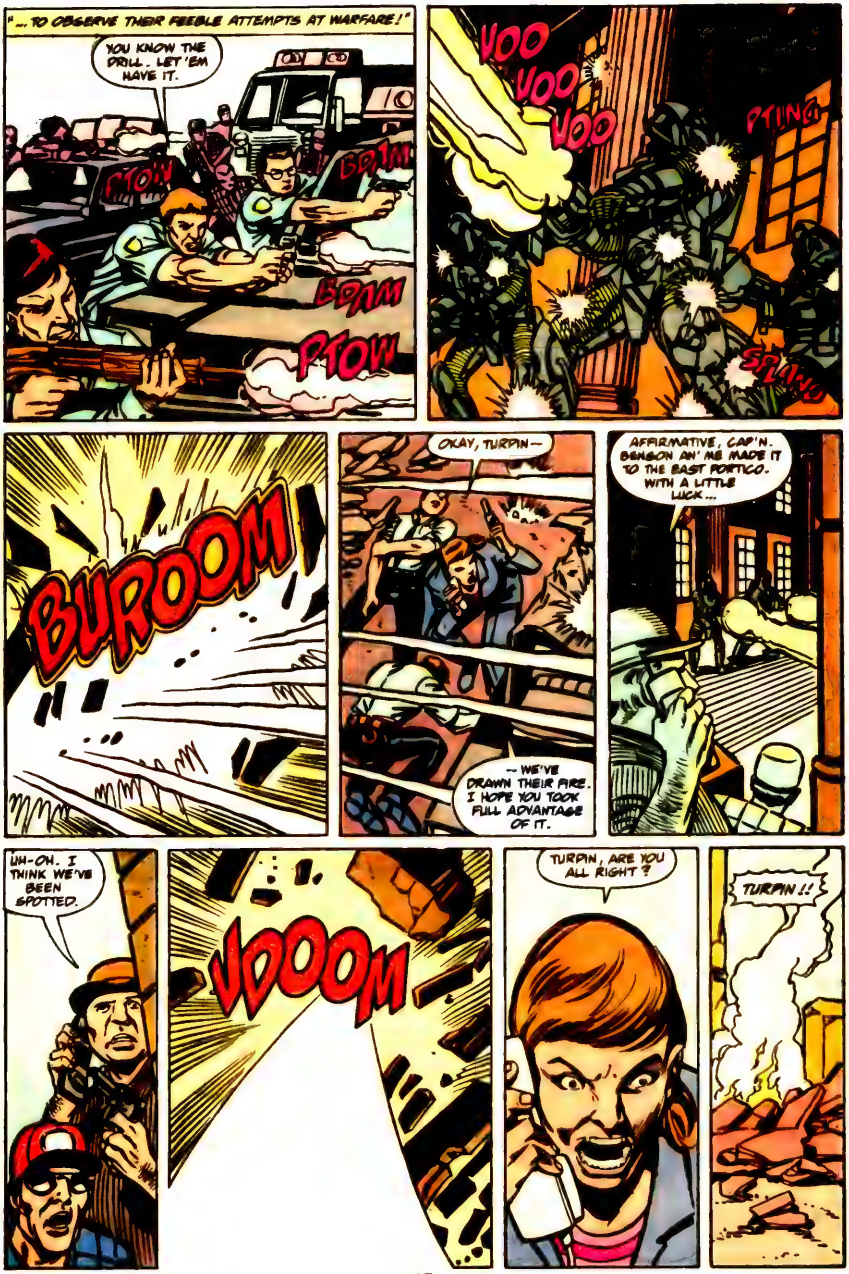

MORNING...
LOIS? CALL FOR YOU ON LINE 2!
THANKS, BOB— GOT IT!
DAILY PLANET
LOIS LANE... HELLO?
JOSÉ! HI! YES, I'M GETTING USED TO ONE-HANDED TYPING... WHY?
WELL, IT SEEMS THAT A SORENESS IN MY ARM TURNED OUT TO BE A HAIRLINE FRACTURE... WE MATCH NOW!
BUT THE DOCTOR STILL PROMISES TO RELEASE ME IN A FEW MORE DAYS.
THINK YOU COULD SMUGGLE ME IN A BELLY-BURGER AND SOME FRIES? I SWEAR THE FOOD IN THIS PLACE--!
IF YOU'RE COMPLAINING ABOUT HOSPITAL FOOD, YOU MUST BE GETTING BETTER!
UH, JOSÉ? I'LL HAVE TO GET BACK TO YOU...
"... I THINK SOMETHING'S JUST COME UP!"
LADY-MAXIMA-WISHES-TO-MEET-SUPERMAN.
UH-HUH? WHY, TELL ME?
SUPERMAN'S TRUE STORY
YOU ARE LOIS LANE? THE ONE THEY CALL "SUPERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND"?
NO, "THEY" DO NOT! A GOSSIP COLUMNIST STUCK ME WITH THAT TAG.
YES, I KNOW SUPERMAN... BUT SO DO A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE.
WHO ARE YOU? AND WHY THE INTEREST IN SUPERMAN?
IT IS ABSURD THAT THIS CRIPPLE WAS LINKED WITH SUPERMAN! SHE IS HARDLY WORTHY OF HIM!
SILENCE! WE WILL ASK THE QUESTIONS!


GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST, WHAT'S EVERYONE STANDING AROUND FOR? THIS IS A NEWSPAPER, NOT A SHOPPING MALL!
WHAT'S SO ALL FIRED...
...IN-TER-EST-ING?
CHIEF? CHIEF!! OMIGOD.
THERE SHOULD BE NO FURTHER INTERRUPTIONS.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM? TO ALL OF THEM?!
YOU CAN'T JUST WALTZ IN HERE AND TAKE--
--OVER!
MY LADY!
WE WILL LEARN NOTHING FROM HER IN THIS STATE!
I DO NOT WISH TO, GAZU. SHE ANNOYS ME.
SUPERMAN THE WHOLE STORY
COME. THERE ARE BETTER WAYS TO FLUSH OUT SUPERMAN.

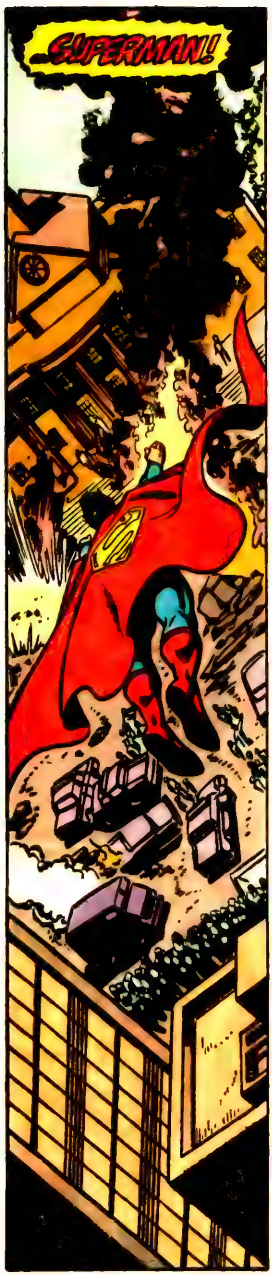

PING
I HAVEN'T OVERSLEPT IN AGES! GUESS I WAS STILL A LITTLE DRAINED FROM THAT ENCOUNTER WITH THE PARASITE, DESPITE STARMAN'S QUICK-CHARGE TREATMENT!
OH, WELL... THAT EXTRA HALF-HOUR OF SHUT-EYE FINISHED WHAT HE STARTED. I FEEL RESTED AND REFRESHED AND READY FOR ANYTHING!
GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE! SORRY I'M--
GOOD LORD!
THEY'RE ALL IN SOME SORT OF TRANCE!
LOIS! LOIS, SNAP OUT OF IT!
HUH?! C-CLARK--?
EH... KENT? WHAT IN BLAZES HAPPENED?
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW! YOU WERE ALL STANDING AROUND LIKE ZOMBIES!
IT WAS THAT WOMAN...
...SOMETHING ABOUT HER EYES!
WOMAN? WHAT WOMAN?
A REDHEAD... TALL... MAYBE SIX-TWO... BUILT LIKE A CROSS BETWEEN A SHOWGIRL AND A POWER-LIFTER! THERE WAS ANOTHER WOMAN WITH HER... SHORTER... WITH BIG, WEIRD EYES--
--AND A BOY... BLACK... ABOUT 12. THEY CALLED THE REDHEAD MAXIMA... SAID THEY WERE LOOKING FOR SUPERMAN.
SOMEBODY CALL SECURITY... THEY CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR! AND FOR PETE'S SAKE, WARN THEM TO BE CAREFUL!
I WISH SUPERMAN WERE HERE...
...HE'D FIND THEM IN A SECOND WITH HIS X-RAY VISION!
MAYBE NOT, LOIS. I DON'T SEE THEM ANYWHERE IN THE BUILDING. HOW COULD THEY HAVE LEFT SO QUICKLY--


"--AND WHERE DID THEY GO?"
EVERYONE-GET-OUT!
VOO VOO VOO
SPRAK
THIS-BUILDING-NOW-BELONGS-TO-OUR-LADY-MAXIMA!
THIS IS ONE-BAKER-SEVEN ...CODE RED! REPEAT... CODE RED!
RIOT IN PROGRESS AT CITY HALL! REQUEST BACK-UP! RIOTERS ARE WEARING ARMOR AND ARE...
...HEAVILY ARMED.

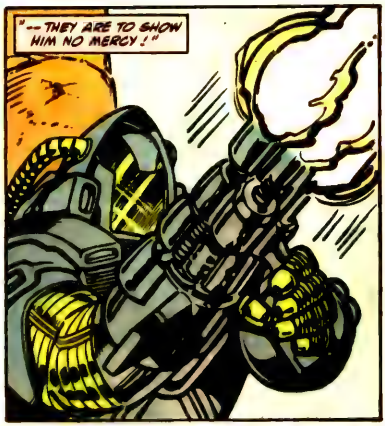

SHRAKOOM
MY - LADY'S - FORCES - HAVE - BEEN - VICTORIOUS.
THE - BUILDING - IS - SECURED.
I STILL CANNOT QUITE BELIEVE --
FROM WHAT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE, HE WAS ELECTED TO RULE BY THE CITIZENRY.
AND THEY CHOSE HIM, RATHER THAN SUPERMAN ?
THESE LOCALS ARE A PUZZLE !
-- THAT THIS LITTLE MAN IS THE CITY RULER !
WHAT IS HE CALLED AGAIN, SAZU ?
"THE MAYOR," MY LADY.
MY - LADY - THE - POLICE - ARE - GROUPING - OUTSIDE.
REALLY ? IT SHOULD BE MOST AMUSING...

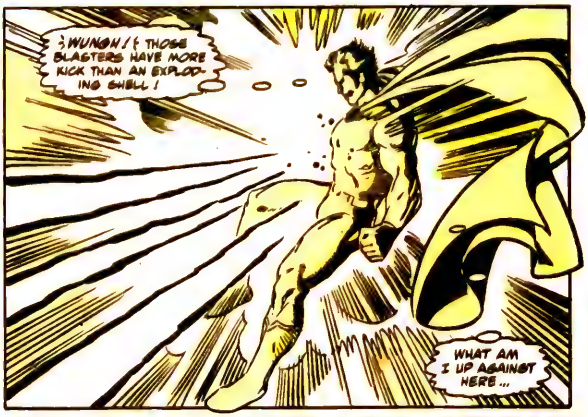

"... TO OBSERVE THEIR FEEBLE ATTEMPTS AT WARFARE!"
YOU KNOW THE DRILL. LET 'EM HAVE IT.
PTOW
BRAM
BRAM
PTOW
VOO VOO VOO
PTING
SPANG
BUROOM
OKAY, TURPIN—
— WE'VE DRAWN THEIR FIRE. I HOPE YOU TOOK FULL ADVANTAGE OF IT.
AFFIRMATIVE, CAP'N. BENSON AN' ME MADE IT TO THE EAST PORTICO. WITH A LITTLE LUCK...
UH-OH. I THINK WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED.
VDOOM
TURPIN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
TURPIN!!

...METROPOLIS POLICE ARE AT THIS HOUR FIGHTING TO RETAKE CITY HALL FROM AN AS-YET UNIDENTIFIED FORCE OF ARMED MEN.
WE HAVE A REPORT-- AND I'D LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIS HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED-- THAT MAYOR BERKOWITZ IS BEING HELD PRISONER IN HIS OFFICE.
THE POLICE SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT HAS SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO ADVANCE AGAINST THE WITHERING FIREPOWER OF CITY HALL'S CAPTORS...
...AND SEVERAL OFFICERS HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. ONE WITNESS TO THE TAKEOVER--
--SAID THAT THE CAPTORS HAD CLAIMED THE BUILDING IN THE NAME OF SOMEONE THEY CALLED "MAXIMA"...
MAXIMA?!
KENT, GET OVER THERE--
--AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN--
KENT?
"NOW, WHERE IN BLAZES DID HE GO?!"
STORE ROOM
IN THIS REPORTER'S OPINION, THERE IS ONLY ONE MAN WHO HAS A CHANCE OF STOPPING THIS CARNAGE...
...ONLY ONE MAN WHO CAN SAVE US...


...SUPERMAN!

AT LAST! NOW WE SHALL SEE HOW MIGHTY HE TRULY IS!
ALERT THE TROOPS, GAZU--


"--THEY ARE TO SHOW HIM NO MERCY!"

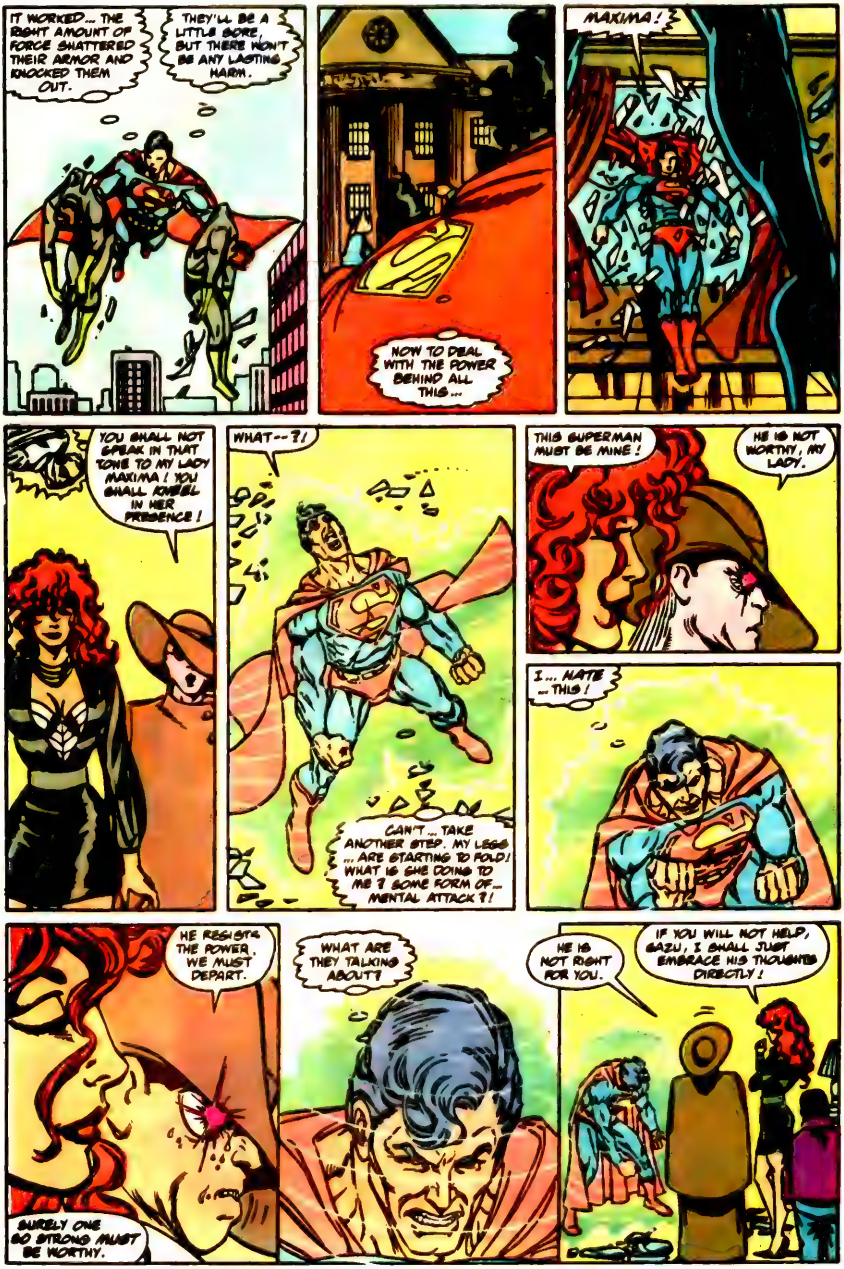

;WUNOH!; THOSE BLASTERS HAVE MORE KICK THAN AN EXPLODING SHELL!
WHAT AM I UP AGAINST HERE...

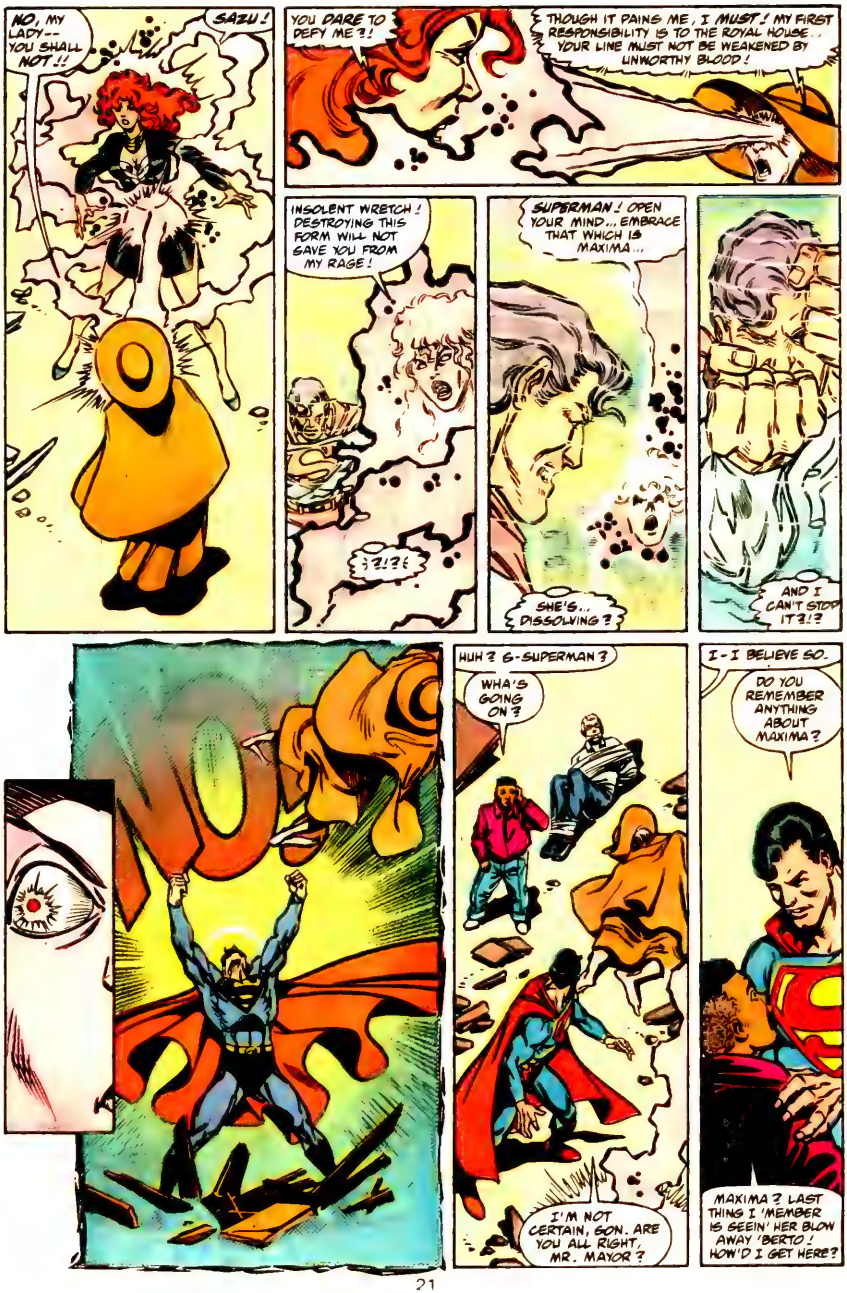
"...WHO IS THIS MAXIMA?"

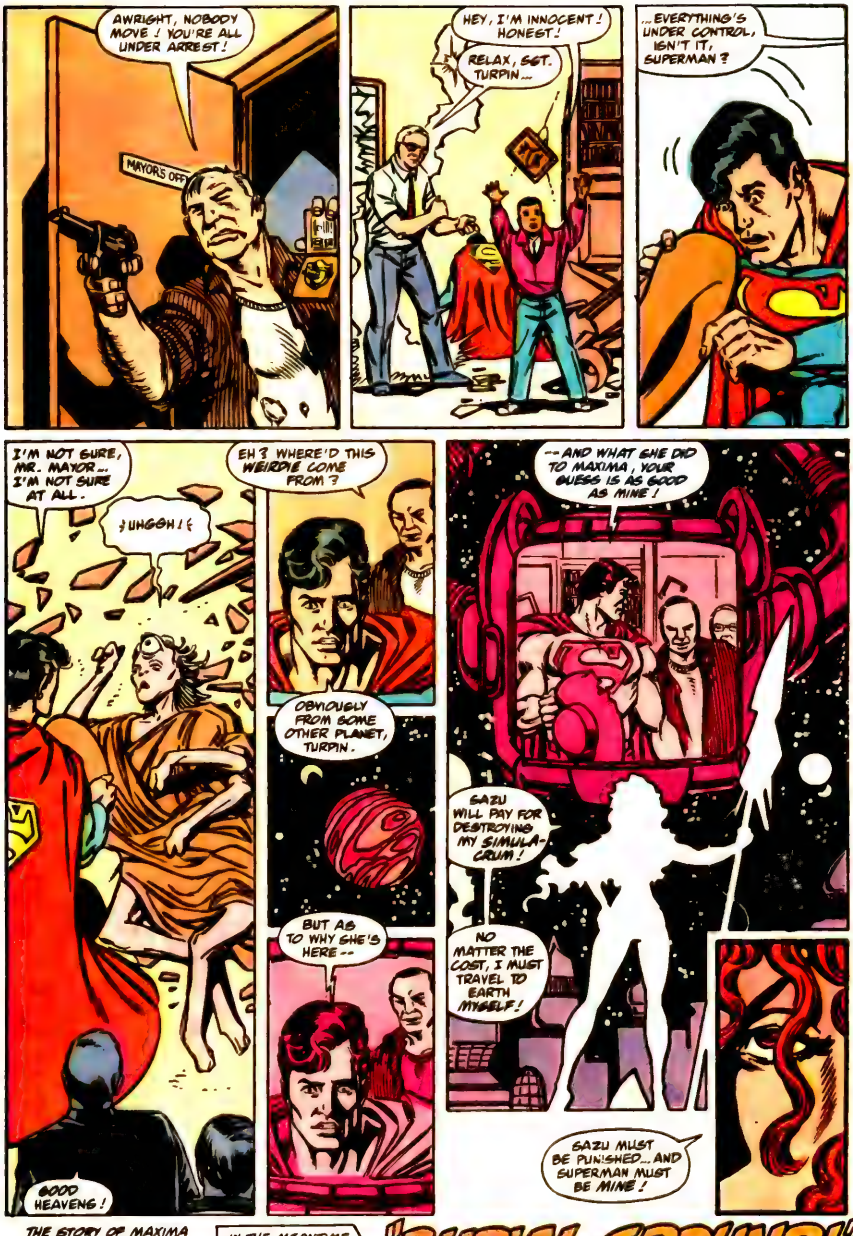
HOW DID SHE COME BY SUCH HIGH-POWERED ARMAMENT? AND WHO IS WORKING FOR HER... INTER-GANG?

MY GOD... THOSE ARE JUST KIDS IN THOSE SUITS!
AND THEY HAVE THE SAME TRANCED-OUT LOOK THAT THE FOLKS BACK AT THE PLANET HAD!
THEY'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS!
IMPRESSIVE.
THIS IS EARTH'S MIGHTY WARRIOR?
I CANNOT BELIEVE IT! WHY--
"--HE IS NOT EVEN TRYING TO KILL HIS OPPONENTS!"
"WHERE IS THE FIRE IN HIS SOUL?
"HOW FAR MUST WE GO TO FAN THAT MURDEROUS PASSION?"

OH, LORD... NO.
VDOOM
"FIRING INTO THE CROWD SEEMS TO HAVE DONE THE TRICK.
"NOW, SUPERMAN, SHOW US THE FULL POWER OF YOUR RAGE--"
--KILL! KILL!
THIS ONE'S NOT SO HIGH OFF THE GROUND THAT THE FALL WILL SERIOUSLY HURT HIM...
...BUT THESE TWO ARE A DIFFERENT STORY!
I CAN'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME WITH YOU!
MMM...
KTUUNG


IT WORKED... THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF FORCE SHATTERED THEIR ARMOR AND KNOCKED THEM OUT.
THEY'LL BE A LITTLE SORE, BUT THERE WON'T BE ANY LASTING HARM.
NOW TO DEAL WITH THE POWER BEHIND ALL THIS...
MAXIMA!
YOU SHALL NOT SPEAK IN THAT TONE TO MY LADY MAXIMA! YOU SHALL KNEEL IN HER PRESENCE!
WHAT--?!
CAN'T... TAKE ANOTHER STEP. MY LEGS ... ARE STARTING TO FOLD! WHAT IS SHE DOING TO ME? SOME FORM OF-- MENTAL ATTACK?!
THIS SUPERMAN MUST BE MINE!
HE IS NOT WORTHY, MY LADY.
I... HATE ... THIS!
HE RESISTS THE POWER. WE MUST DEPART.
SURELY ONE SO STRONG MUST BE WORTHY.
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?
HE IS NOT RIGHT FOR YOU.
IF YOU WILL NOT HELP, GAZU, I SHALL JUST EMBRACE HIS THOUGHTS DIRECTLY!


NO, MY LADY-- YOU SHALL NOT!!
SAZU!
YOU DARE TO DEFY ME?!
THOUGH IT PAINS ME, I MUST! MY FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS TO THE ROYAL HOUSE.. YOUR LINE MUST NOT BE WEAKENED BY UNWORTHY BLOOD!
INSOLENT WRETCH! DESTROYING THIS FORM WILL NOT SAVE YOU FROM MY RAGE!
SUPERMAN! OPEN YOUR MIND... EMBRACE THAT WHICH IS MAXIMA...
SHE'S.. DISSOLVING?
AND I CAN'T STOP IT?!?
HUH? G-SUPERMAN?
WHA'S GOING ON?
I'M NOT CERTAIN, SON. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MR. MAYOR?
I-I BELIEVE SO.
DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT MAXIMA?
MAXIMA? LAST THING I 'MEMBER IS SEEIN' HER BLOW AWAY 'BERTO! HOW'D I GET HERE?


AWRIGHT, NOBODY MOVE ! YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST !
MAYOR'S OFF
HEY, I'M INNOCENT ! HONEST !
RELAX, SGT. TURPIN...
...EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL, ISN'T IT, SUPERMAN ?
I'M NOT SURE, MR. MAYOR... I'M NOT SURE AT ALL.
¡UHGGH!¿
EH ? WHERE'D THIS WEIRDIE COME FROM ?
OBVIOUSLY FROM SOME OTHER PLANET, TURPIN.
BUT AS TO WHY SHE'S HERE --
GOOD HEAVENS !
--AND WHAT SHE DID TO MAXIMA, YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE !
SAZU WILL PAY FOR DESTROYING MY SIMULACRUM !
NO MATTER THE COST, I MUST TRAVEL TO EARTH MYSELF !
SAZU MUST BE PUNISHED... AND SUPERMAN MUST BE MINE !

THE STORY OF MAXIMA HAS JUST BEGUN ! IT WILL CONTINUE TO UNFOLD IN THE MONTHS TO COME !

IN THE MEANTIME, JOIN US HERE NEXT ISSUE FOR...

"BURIAL GROUND!"

ISN'T THAT A SIGHT? Y'KNOW CHARLIE, I'VE NEVER SEEN A SUPERHERO CLEAN UP AFTER HIMSELF!
I HEAR YOU, GUS, BUT IN ALL FAIRNESS, WASN'T IT SOME ROBOT OR SOMETHING THAT DESTROYED THE EDGEWATER PARKING PLAZA?
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
Laugh... I Thought I'd DIE!

Story & Pencils JERRY ORDWAY · Inks DENNIS JANKE · Colors GLENN WHITMORE · Letters JOHN COSTANZA · Assoc. Editing JON PETERSON · Editor MIKE CARLIN

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LOOK! IT'S MAYOR BERKOWITZ!

MR. MAYOR, ANY UPDATE ON YOUR WOULD-BE KIDNAPPERS?

NO NEW DETAILS, BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT POLICE HAVE THE ACCOMPLICE IN INTERROGATION...

...SO FAR SHE'S REFUSED TO TALK!

MAYOR BERKOWITZ, HOW DID YOU CONVINCE SUPERMAN TO HELP CLEAN UP THIS STREET?

WELL, MS. WASHINGTON, HE VOLUNTEERED!

HE MUST SYMPATHIZE WITH THE COMMUTERS WHO USE THIS ARTERY TO AND FROM WORK EVERYDAY!

WLEX

FRANKLY, I DON'T CARE WHY HE'S DOING IT, CONSIDERING ALL THE DAMAGE THAT HAS HIT THIS CITY RECENTLY.

ALIEN INVADERS, KILLER ROBOTS, YOU NAME IT! OUR CLEAN-UP BUDGETS ARE EXHAUSTED!

HOW DO YOU ANSWER CRITICS WHO SAY THAT THIS TYPE OF DESTRUCTION WOULDN'T OCCUR WITHOUT SUPERHERO INVOLVEMENT?

NONSENSE!

KIRBY SALVAGE

HOW ABOUT UNION COMPLAINTS THAT THIS FREE LABOR TAKES WORK AWAY FROM CITY WORKERS?

OUR MEN ARE WORKING MAXIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS OF OVERTIME ALREADY!

LET'S NOT LOOK A GIFT-HORSE IN THE MOUTH--I'M HAPPY TO ACCEPT SUPERMAN'S HELP!

THAT GUY TIRES ME OUT JUST LOOKING AT HIM!

KID, THEY DON'T MAKE HEROES LIKE HIM ANYMORE!

2

NICE TO BE APPRECIATED.

I CAN'T DENY THAT THE LOONIES HAVE COME OUT OF THE WOODWORK SINCE I'VE BEEN BACK ON EARTH!

HEY, SUPERMAN! YOU MISSED A SPOT!

3

ER-- ONLY JOKING, SUPERMAN. WE *DO* APPRECIATE YOUR HELP!

JUST DOING MY PART FOR THE CITY, MR. MAYOR!

CRUNCH

THAT'S THE GUARDIAN'S *BATTLEVAN* OVER THERE...

I'VE BEEN *MEANING* TO TALK WITH HIM.

THANKS *AGAIN*, SUPERMAN!

POLICE

EXCUSE ME. CARE TO *COMMENT* ON THE *CHARGES* THAT POLICE HAVE FILED AGAINST MORGAN EDGE?

I'D *RATHER* NOT.

HOW ABOUT A PICTURE?

HI. WANT A *LIFT*?

HOP IN.

I COULD *MEET* YOU...

...OR I COULD FLY YOU *AND* THE VAN AWAY FROM THE CROWD, GUARDIAN...

LISTEN, METROPOLIS' STREET TRAFFIC *WAS* CONSIDERED WHEN THIS BUCKET WAS DESIGNED!

CLICK

WHIIIRRR

CLICK

SNAK!

GET BACK...

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU, GUARDIAN. LAST TIME WE MET, I WASN'T QUITE *MYSELF.*

ONE MINUTE I WAS DUKING IT OUT WITH GANGBUSTER, NEXT THING I'M FACE TO FACE WITH *YOU!*

WUP WUP WUP

WELL, HEY!

I HAD APPARENTLY BEEN LEADING A DOUBLE LIFE AS BOTH GANG-BUSTER *AND* SUPERMAN.*

I SUSPECTED IT WENT DEEPER THAN JUST MASQUERADE ON YOUR PART--YOU WERE PRETTY CONFUSED AT THAT TIME!

* *IM ADVENTURES #450*

"IT WAS MORE THAN CONFUSION, GUARDIAN-- I WAS ILL."

"DADDY, WHY DO WE HAFTA COME TO THIS STUPID HOSPITAL?"

I KNOW YOU HATE HOSPITALS, ADAM. SO DO I, BUT DADDY'S GOT SOMEBODY TO VISIT.

YOU MEAN MORGAN EDGE, DON'T YOU? MOMMY DOESN'T EVEN *LIKE* HIM ANYMORE!

'COURSE IF YOU COULD GET HIM TO LET ME KEEP ALL THE *NEAT STUFF* HE GAVE ME...

HE IS NO LONGER A PART OF YOUR LIFE, ADAM.

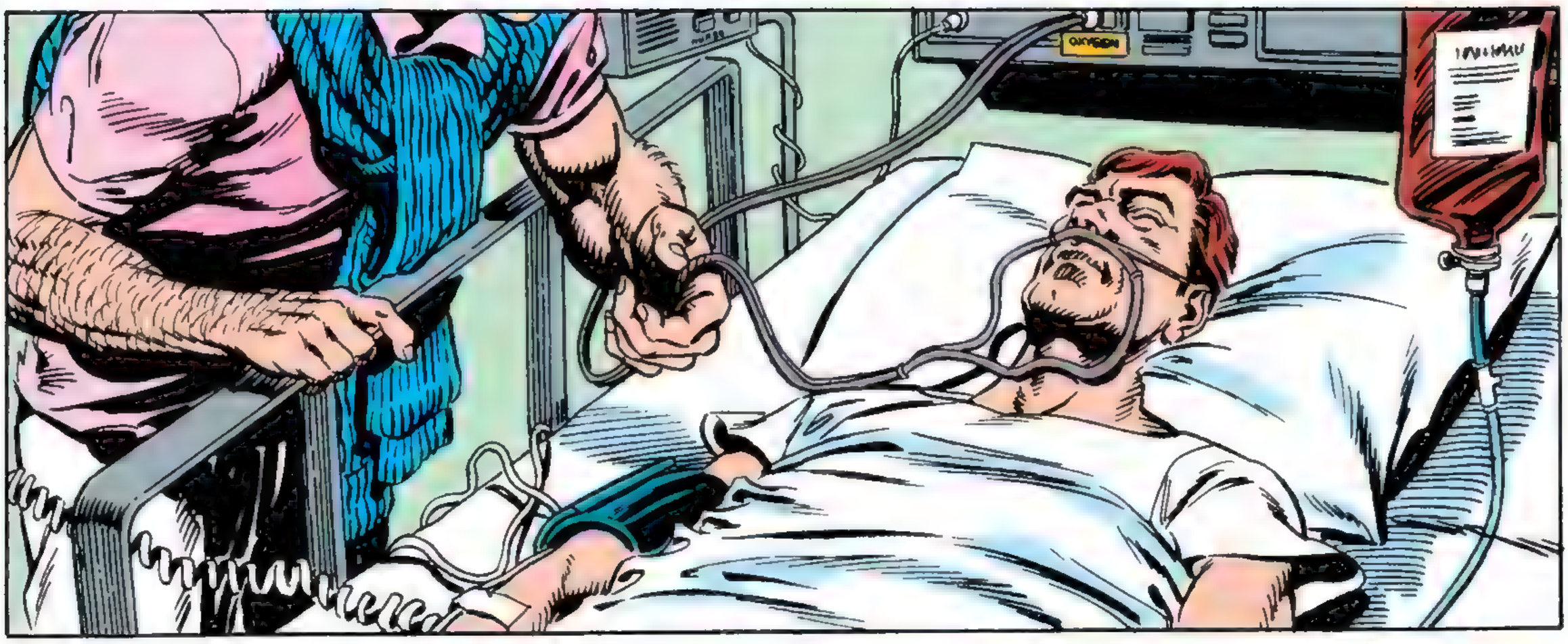
MR. EDGE IS *VERY ILL*, AND I HAVE SOMETHING *IMPORTANT* TO TELL HIM.

ASK HIM ABOUT MY *TOYS!*

I'M JOSEPH MORGAN AND THIS IS MY SON. I ARRANGED TO SEE EDGE.

FIVE MINUTES IS *ALL* I CAN SPOT YOU, MR. MORGAN...

...PLEASE DON'T KILL HIM!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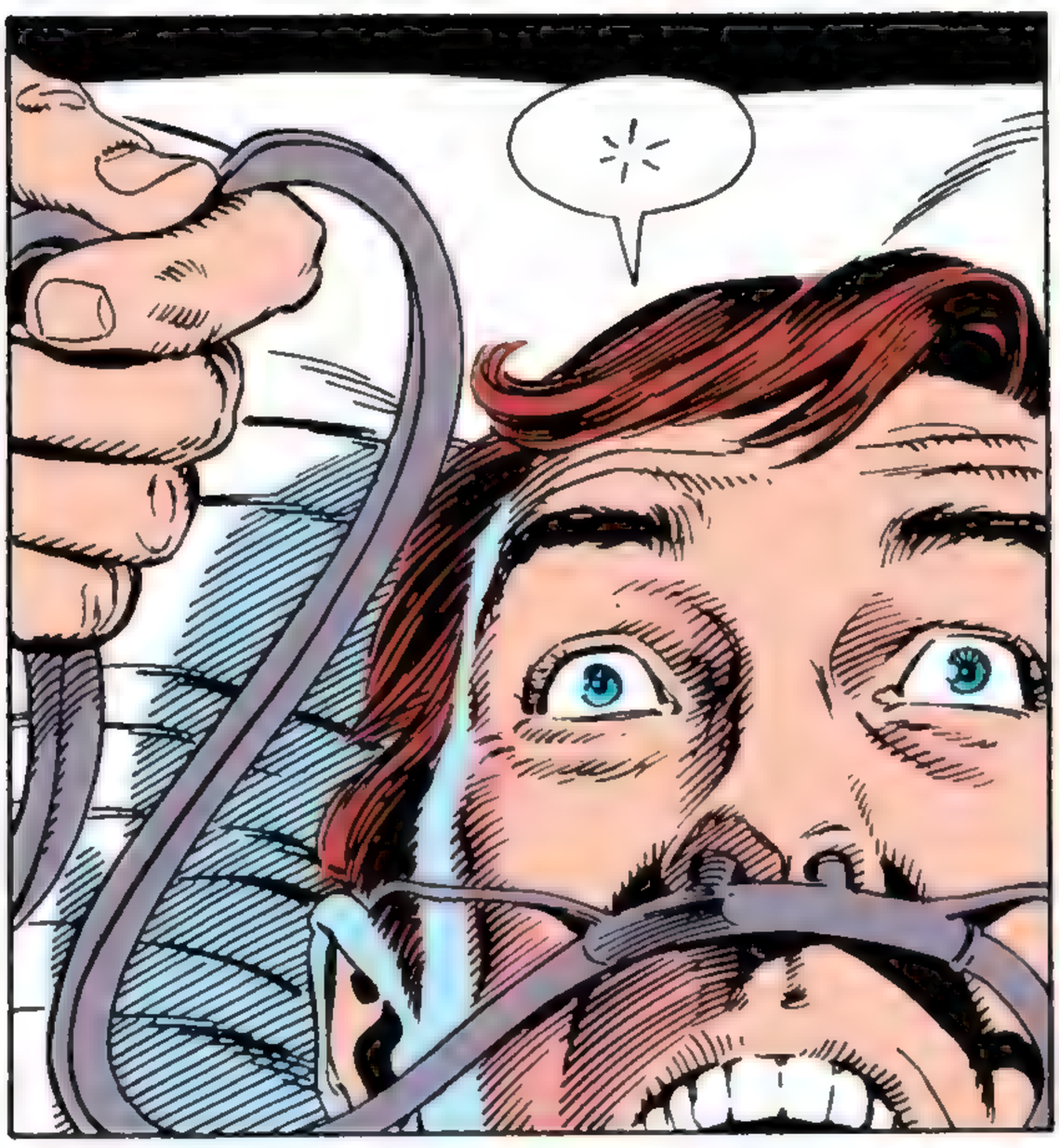
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HI.

I'M JOE MORGAN. YOU ALREADY KNOW MY BOY, ADAM.
CATHERINE GRANT IS HIS MOM, AND MY EX-WIFE!

PERSONALLY, I DON'T GIVE A RAT'S BUTT FOR HER, BUT SHE IS ADAM'S MOTHER!
NO KID SHOULD BE WITHOUT A MOM...

HEY, I DON'T WANT TO SPOIL YOUR FUN...

FEEL FREE TO MAKE DOGFOOD OR LANDFILL OUT OF THOSE OTHER REPORTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPOSING INTERGANG!

I KNOW I'D WANT REVENGE IF SOMEONE CROSSED ME LIKE THAT...

... JUST LEAVE MY BOY AND HIS MOTHER OUT OF IT!

MR. EDGE, CAN I GET MY TOYS FROM YOUR HOUSE, IN CASE YOU DIE OR SOMETHIN'?

FORGET THE TOYS, ADAM. MR. EDGE HAS TOO MUCH ELSE TO WORRY ABOUT.

I THINK WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, SO YOU MAY RESUME BREATHING NOW.

SNAP

'BYE, NOW.

NURSE-- HELP!

BUZZZ

:PHAUGH:

SQUIRT

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

EVERY TEN SECONDS IT SEEMS WE'RE *RUNNING* IN HERE...

WHAT IS IT *THIS* TIME?

EDGE, MORGAN

OH, MR. EDGE...

...YOU'VE *WET* YOURSELF!

AREN'T YOU BUMS SUPPOSED TO *PROTECT* ME? WHOSE PAYROLL ARE YOU ON, ANYWAY?

WE WORK FOR THE *CITY* OF METROPOLIS, WISEGUY!

THAT GUY DIDN'T *KILL* YOU DID HE? SEE, I TOLD HIM *NOT* TO, SO I GUESS WE *ARE* PROTECTING YOU!

I'D BETTER CALL FOR AN *ORDERLY* TO CLEAN UP THAT WATER.

JOE MORGAN'S THREAT MAY HAVE SAVED HIS EX'S *LIFE*, BUT IT WON'T SAVE HER *JOB!*

MISS CONWAY, HAVE CATHERINE GRANT'S CONTRACT *TERMINATED* IMMEDIATELY!

GOOD-*BYE*, MISS CONWAY!

YOU FELL FOR THE OLD "*GUM ON THE PHONE*" BIT? *HAH!*

I ALWAYS *KNEW* YOU WERE ALL *WET*, EDGE...

LET'S WIPE THAT *BOO-BOO* FACE OFF, SHALL WE?

SPLAT!

"THIS IS SOMETHING THAT COULD BE TRUSTED TO NO ONE ELSE..."

YOU WERE CORRECT IN BRINGING SUPERMAN HERE TO *PROJECT CADMUS!*

THE INFORMATION WE GAIN MUST *NEVER* BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE!

UNDER HYPNOSIS, I CAN UNCOVER HIDDEN MEMORIES FROM HIS *MULTIPLE PERSONALITY* PHASE.

HIS LAPSES ARE LIMITED TO HIS ACTIVITIES AS *GANGBUSTER* DURING THE PERIOD OF TIME HE WAS SICK.

WE WILL BE ABLE TO VIEW HIS *MEMORIES* ON THE *TRANSFERRAL* SCREEN BEHIND HIM.

LET US BEGIN...

SUPERMAN, YOU CAN REMEMBER THE DAY YOU DEFENDED METROPOLIS FROM *THANAGARIAN* INVADERS?*

YES, ALL BUT *ONE* HAD BEEN FORCED TO RETREAT. I'VE BEEN *HIT*...

*In Superman #26.

"YES, AND THEN YOU CRASHED THROUGH THE STREET, VANISHING UNDERGROUND. WHERE DID YOU GO?

"IT'S ALL GONE BLACK..."

"IT HAS GONE BLACK FOR SUPERMAN, BUT LIFT THE VEIL FOR..."

"...GANGBUSTER."

"YES, I AM IN A PLACE DEEP UNDERGROUND WHERE I STORE MY GANGBUSTER COSTUME..."

"AFTER SUPERMAN DISAPPEARED, IT WAS GANGBUSTER WHO BROUGHT THE VOODOO PRIEST BARON SUNDAY TO THE POLICE."

"YES, I FOUND A FETISH, MADE FROM MY--UH, SUPERMAN'S CAPE, AND DESTROYED IT. IT MADE ME UNCOMFORTABLE."

"I ALSO REMEMBER ATTACKING LEX LUTHOR IN HIS HEADQUARTERS..."

"...AND THAT I IN TURN WAS ATTACKED BY HIS BODYGUARD..."

I--CAN'T IDENTIFY HIM...

WHO IS HE?

I'D BETTER BRING HIM OUT OF IT NOW.

SUPERMAN--HEAR ME. AT THE COUNT OF THREE, YOU WILL AWAKE AND *REMEMBER*.

ONE--TWO--*THREE*.

THAT WAS *INCREDIBLE*. WHY DID YOU STOP?

YOU BEGAN TO *FIXATE* ON THAT SHADOWY FIGURE IN LUTHOR'S OFFICE... I DIDN'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN.

I WAS *SO* CLOSE, THOUGH!

HAVE PATIENCE. WE DON'T DARE RISK DAMAGE TO YOUR PSYCHE!

SUCH A THING COULD TRIGGER *ANOTHER* MULTIPLE PERSONALITY INCIDENT!

NO OFFENSE, SUPERMAN, BUT HOW DO WE KNOW YOU'RE CURED OF *THAT* IN THE FIRST PLACE?

PERHAPS YOU COULD STAY HERE WHILE *WE* DETERMINE YOUR MENTAL CONDITION?

I *DO* APPRECIATE THE CONCERN, BUT I HAVE *SEVERAL* PRESSING MATTERS TO ATTEND TO.

MORE PRESSING THAN YOUR *HEALTH*?

WELL, A *GOOD* FRIEND OF MINE HAS THIS *VIRUS* THAT WE THINK HAS *INVADED* HIS GENETIC STRUCTURE. *

HE'S UNDER TREATMENT NOW, BUT IF HE CAN'T BE HELPED...

* Jimmy Olsen, in ADVENTURES #458.

...I'D LIKE PERMISSION TO BRING HIM HERE, SO YOUR *BOYS* COULD LOOK HIM OVER.

HOW CAN WE SAY "*NO*" TO YOU, SUPERMAN?

YOUR FRIEND IS WELCOME HERE, BUT WE MUST TAKE PRE-CAUTIONS TO PRESERVE THE SECRECY OF THIS INSTALLATION...

"...HE MUST BE KEPT IN THE DARK AS TO OUR LOCATION AND TO THE NATURE OF OUR WORK HERE!"

OOPS! I THOUGHT THIS WAS THE TV CHANNEL CHANGER!

LOOMIS--GET-ME-OUT-OF-THIS! MY CHEST!!!

I'LL :UGH: PUT THE "UNCLE OSWALD SHOW" BACK ON THE AIR...

WE BOTH KNOW THAT MY "FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE" STATUS PRECLUDES MY RETURN TO "KIDDIE TV!"

MY KIDNAPPING OF LOIS LANE AND MURDER ATTEMPT ON YOU* ARE MORE SUITABLE GRIST FOR "AMERICA'S PUBLIC ENEMIES" ON GBS!

I-I'LL--GIVE-YOU-MONEY...

THIS ISN'T ABOUT MONEY...

Y'KNOW, I CAN'T DRINK ALL OF MY "BELLY BIG GULP" SODA...

*IN SUPERMAN #16

...YOU CAN FINISH IT FOR ME!

HEY!

WHAT ARE YOUUUUUUUU

OOPS!

FLOOR

HAVE A NICE TRIP...

CLUNK

...SEE YOU NEXT FALL!

THANKS FOR CLOSING THAT DOOR!

BIG BELLY BURGER
DON'T SMOKE
HURRY UP, TAMMY! MY DAD'S ALWAYS BEEN A *STICKLER* FOR PUNCTUALITY!
WLEX
CATCH FIRE
W 43 ST
GLENMORGAN SQ
ONE WAY
TOW AWAY ZONE
WALK
BELLY RGER
PARKING
24 HRS

HOLD YOUR HORSES, JER! I'VE GOT TO PUT THIS STUFF IN THE OFFICE!
HEY *WHITE*, THAT'S WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU DATE THE *BOSS*!
SHADDAP, MARC!
JERRY
BEL BUR
WAST

RELAX, WILL YOU? WE'RE *NOT* GOING TO BE LATE!
AND TAKE THAT *APRON* OFF!
OH! I FORGOT. Y'KNOW, THIS THING MAKES ME *LOOK* LIKE MY *DAD*!
BELLY BUSTER
JERRY
BIG

THERE! THAT DIDN'T TAKE *LONG*, DID IT?
ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER THREE SIXTY-FIVE! SEE YA!
TOMORROW.

TAXI!
IT'S NOT WORTH PAYING SIX-FIFTY TO GO A FEW BLOCKS, TAMMY!
Doubleday
GoGo Czech Cab Co.

BAG IT!
SUBWAY'LL DO FINE!
Lex
42 St-Glenmorgan Square Station
A CC AA B D
"AREN'T YOU GUYS SUPPOSED TO BE GUARDING MORGAN EDGE?"

EDGE IS A PAIN IN THE YOU-KNOW-WHAT. HE'S IN NO DANGER!

THE DOCTORS STILL IN THERE WITH HIM?

I'M RE-THINKING THIS *SODA*-THING, EDGE...

CARBONATED DRINKS AREN'T *GOOD* FOR YOU-- ESPECIALLY THE LIVER.

TYPE B WHOLE BLOOD

"*UNCLE OSWALD*" WOULDN'T WANT YOU *KIDS* TO TRY *THIS* AT HOME!

I THINK A LITTLE *PHYSICAL THERAPY* WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU.

FIRST, WE HAVE TO GET YOU *OUT OF* THAT *BED!*

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE, YOUR PROTECTIVE EYE-WEAR, IN CASE IT GETS *DICEY!*

PLEASE, NO SQUEALING, OKAY?

THEY ALWAYS SAID MY TV SHOW WAS *TOO* VIOLENT, BUT LATELY I'VE BEEN WATCHING A LOT OF *CABLE* MOVIE CHANNELS...

"*TEXAS CHAIN-SAW MASSACRE*," "*FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH*," "*NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET*..."

VROOM!

"*LEATHERFACE*," "*JASON*", AND "*FREDDY KRUEGER*" ARE ALL *HEROES* TO THE KIDS TODAY!

I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, "*WELL HEY!* MY SHOW USED TO BE PRETTY POPULAR IN SYNDICATION -- PROBABLY WAS IN TEXAS, *TOO!*"

VROOOM

SCREEEE

LET IT *NEVER* BE SAID THAT OSWALD LOOMIS LOST HIS *EDGE* BY FALLING BEHIND THE *TIMES!*

SHOO! GET THE DOOR, PERRY! IT'S *THEM!*

AND PUT THAT *CIGAR* OUT!

THUNDERATIONS, ALICE! I'M NOT HARD OF HEARING--I *HEARD* THE DOORBELL!

BING BONG

HI DAD. THIS IS TAMMY.

HELLO, MR. WHITE.

UH-- HELLO.

PERRY WHITE, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? INVITE THEM IN.

TAMMY. THIS IS MY WIFE--ALICE.

I'LL GET US SOMETHING TO DRINK. COME IN, PLEASE.

SO, JUNIOR, *UH, JERRY,* WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO LATELY?

WELL, I'M NO LONGER SPONGING OFF OF JOSE DELGADO--GOT AN APARTMENT NOW, AND I'M WORKING AT A RESTAURANT.

IT'S THE *BIG BELLY BURGER* JOINT ON GLEN-MORGAN SQUARE.

I'M THE *MANAGER* THERE-- JERRY'S MY NUMBER ONE EMPLOYEE!

AT LEAST UNTIL I FINISH NIGHT SCHOOL AT *U-MET!*

I'M WORKING ON MY *MASTER'S DEGREE* IN BUSINESS.

HEAR *THAT,* SON? THAT SHOULD INSPIRE *YOU* TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL!

DAAAD, DON'T START!

IT IS HEARTENING TO SEE SOMEONE WITH A HEALTHY RESPECT FOR *HIGHER EDUCATION.*

YOU KNOW, I GREW UP IN *SUICIDE SLUM.* EDUCATION WAS *MY* WAY OUT.

HERE WE GO WITH "*THE SPEECH.*"

JERRY! STOP IT!

NO, HE'S RIGHT. IT'S A STORY FOR ANOTHER VISIT.

EH?

DEAR, WILL YOU HELP WITH THE HORS D'OEUVRES?

YOU *KNOW* I HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE *MICRO-WAVE.*

TAMMY, THIS ISN'T GOING *TOO* WELL.

I THINK HE'S HAVING A HARD TIME WITH THE *INTERRACIAL* IMPLICATIONS.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I'LL ADMIT HE SEEMED *STUNNED* AT FIRST...

...BUT HE'S BEEN VERY OPEN, AND *FRIENDLY!*

YOU'VE BEEN THE CRAB.

YOU JUST DON'T *KNOW* --HE *HATES* EVERYONE I LIKE, AND EVERYTHING I DO!

PERRY TELLS ME YOU'RE GETTING YOUR *MASTER'S...*

WHAT COMPANY DO YOU HOPE TO WORK FOR? OR IS IT TOO PREMATURE?

NOT AT ALL. I SET MY SIGHTS ON THAT AS A KID -- *LEXCORP.*

LEXCORP?

THOSE GUYS AT THE PROJECT WERE STARTING TO WORRY ME.

I HADN'T EVEN CONSIDERED THAT I MIGHT *NOT* BE CURED OF MY *MENTAL PROBLEMS.*

PLANE!

WELL, I'D BETTER FINISH UP MY PIECE ON THE HOUSING COMMI--*HUH?*

I WAS *FIRED!*

FIRED!

STAIRS

FIRE

IT'S *NOT* LIKE I WASN'T *EXPECTING* THIS!

I JUST DIDN'T EXPECT IT SO SOON!

CAT? YOU'VE BEEN *FIRED?*

CAT?

DAILY PLANET CITY ROOM

PERRY FIRED YOU?

PLANET ROOM

BOB, IF THERE'RE ANY MESSAGES FOR ME, I'LL BE DOWNSTAIRS IN MY "*OFFICE.*"

I'LL KEEP YOUR SEAT WARM, CAT.

THUMP

DAILY PLANET "AT"

BOB

CAAAT, *PLEASE.* WHAT HAPPENED?

GALAXY *BROADCASTING* FIRED ME.

I *LIKED* BEING ON *TV!*

GOOD-*BYE,* CLARK.

CAT, PLEASE LET'S TALK.

CAT'S "*OFFICE*" *WAS* DOOLEY'S BAR DOWNSTAIRS, WHEN SHE WAS DRINKING!

MY STORY WILL HAVE TO WAIT.

STAIRS

AHHH, MS. GRANT. HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN SOME TIME!

KOUL BRAU BEER

YOUR *USUAL*, MARTINI STRAIGHT UP!

NO, I DIDN'T...

CAT?

KOUL BRAU LIGHT BEER

CAN *I* SIT HERE?

THIS IS STILL AMERICA, ISN'T IT?

CAT, WE HAVE TO *TALK* ABOUT THIS.

WHY? BECAUSE I'M SITTING IN A *LOUNGE* WITH A *DRINK* IN FRONT OF ME? LET'S TALK ABOUT *YOUR* AMAZING RECOVERY!

A WEEK AGO YOU HAD THE MENTAL CAPACITY OF A CHILD, YET TODAY YOU'RE BACK TO YOUR OLD ARTICULATE SELF?!

CORRECTION-- YOUR OLD *HOLIER THAN THOU* SELF!

CAN'T VERY WELL TELL HER THAT IT WASN'T *ME*, BUT A BEING CALLED MATRIX IMPERSONATING *ME* WHILE I WAS OFF IN SPACE!

I'M CONCERNED THAT *YOU'RE* REVERTING *BACK* TO *YOUR OLD SELF!*

YOU MEAN "*CAT GRANT, PROBLEM DRINKER?*"

IT'S BEEN A *ROUGH* COUPLE OF MONTHS, WITH ALL I WENT THROUGH TO GET *YOU* INFO ON MORGAN EDGE'S TIES TO *INTERGANG!*

NO ONE *ASKED* YOU TO GET INVOLVED WITH ANY OF THIS!

YOU *USED* MY NOTES FOR YOUR EXPOSÉ!

I DIDN'T KNOW *THAT* WAS *YOU*...

I DID WHAT I DID, I PROVED MY WORTH--IT'S JUST THAT I CAME TO ENJOY *BEING* ON TV-- ON "*ENTERTAINMENT TODAY.*"

KEV, HONEY, PUT ON *MY* SHOW, WILL YOU?

AT THIS MOMENT, FORMER GBS HOST "UNCLE OSWALD" HAS BARRICADED HIMSELF IN GALAXY OWNER MORGAN EDGE'S HOSPITAL ROOM...

OSWALD LOOMIS

ENTERTAINMENT TODAY STEVE LOMBARD

HEY, DIDN'T EDGE JUST HAVE HEART SURGERY OR SOMETHIN'?

OSWALD LOOMIS IS STILL WANTED BY POLICE FOR AN EARLIER ATTEMPT ON EDGE'S LIFE...*

ALWAYS *DID* LIKE UNCLE OSWALD!

*IN SUPERMAN #16

SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO RUN!

I THOUGHT *HE* WANTED TO TALK TO *YOU*, *CAT!*

I'LL TALK TO YA, DARLIN'!

YOU GET USED TO IT, KEV. CLARK ALWAYS RUNS OFF WHEN THINGS GET SERIOUS!

DUMP THIS MARTINI. I *WANTED* A CLUB SODA WITH A TWIST OF LIME...

"LET'S DRINK TO MY FORMER BOSS..."

ABBABBABBABBA

VROOM

YOU RUINED ME, EDGE...

...YOU AND THAT *COMMITTEE* FOR NONVIOLENT TELEVISION...

VROOOM

Lex-Tek

AND YOU'RE ONE LITTLE PIGGY WHO'S NOT COMING HOME...

UNCLE! *UNCLE!*

VROOOM

Lex-Tek

VROOOM

NO ONE'S TAKING *THIS* SHOW OFF THE AIR.

SCREEEE

SORRY, "JASON"...

I THINK THIS REALLY IS YOUR *FINAL* CHAPTER!

SCRUNCH

SUPERMAN!

WHAT HAS TWISTED YOU SO, LOOMIS, THAT YOU WOULD ATTEMPT *MURDER?*

IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE JUST NOT *FUNNY* ANYMORE?

KER-UNK!

THANKYOUTHANKYOU THANKYOUTHANKYOU...

WRRRANK!

HMMM, HEARTBEAT SOUNDS STRONG -- YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT NOW, EDGE.

I'M *NOT* A MURDERER-- I'M A *PRANKSTER.*

THIS WAS *JUST* A BIG *JOKE!* I'VE ADJUSTED TO *TODAY'S* STANDARD OF HUMOR -- IT WAS *CRUEL*, AND IT'S *TRUE*, SO IT'S *FUNNY!*

G-GET HIM, :GASP:, HE'S GETTING AWAY...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS *SET-UP!* A QUICK BURST OF AIR SHOULD DO THE JOB...

FLOOP?

HAPPY LANDINGS!

FLOOP!

BOMP

I WAS *WRONG*...

...YOU *STILL ARE FUNNY!*

I'VE GOT TO GET SOME AIR!

JERRY, WE HAVEN'T SERVED DESSERT YET!

DID I DO SOMETHING--?

I HAVE A FEELING IT'S WHAT YOU DIDN'T DO, MR. AND MRS. WHITE.

I'D BETTER LEAVE AS WELL. THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME OVER.

IT WAS NICE TO MEET YOU, TAMMY.

REMEMBER WHAT I SAID ABOUT LEXCORP.

THANKS AGAIN.

JERRY WHITE, YOU HAVE BEEN A MAJOR BUTTHEAD THIS EVENING!

TAXI!

TAMMY, MY DAD...

DON'T BLAME HIM! YOU USED ME TO TRY TO EMBARRASS HIM! I DON'T LIKE BEING USED!

YOU'RE MAD AT THEM BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T ACT THE WAY YOU THOUGHT THEY WOULD!

TAMMY, YOU'RE WRONG. I DIDN'T MEAN...

EDGE WILL BE FINE. SOME SUTURES PULLED LOOSE, AND HE WAS CUT ON THE NOSE, BUT HE'LL SURVIVE, INSPECTOR HENDERSON.

YOU MIGHT SAY I KEPT HIM IN *STITCHES!*

OUCH! THAT WAS *BAD!* AND TO THINK MY KIDS GREW UP WATCHING YOU!

HE'S A FUNNY LITTLE SPUD, BUT I STILL DON'T GET *WHY* HE DID ALL THIS!

I THINK, BILL, *THIS* IS WHY HE DID IT.

MR. LOOMIS, HOW 'BOUT A PICTURE?

ANY COMMENT?

OVER HERE!

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?

E. MORGAN

METROPOLIS POLICE

OSWALD LOOMIS CAPTURES THE *AIRWAVES* ONCE AGA-- *EH?*

CBS

NO NO NOOO. NOT WHILE I'M STILL BIG NEWS...

CLIK

...NOT JUST YET.

.22

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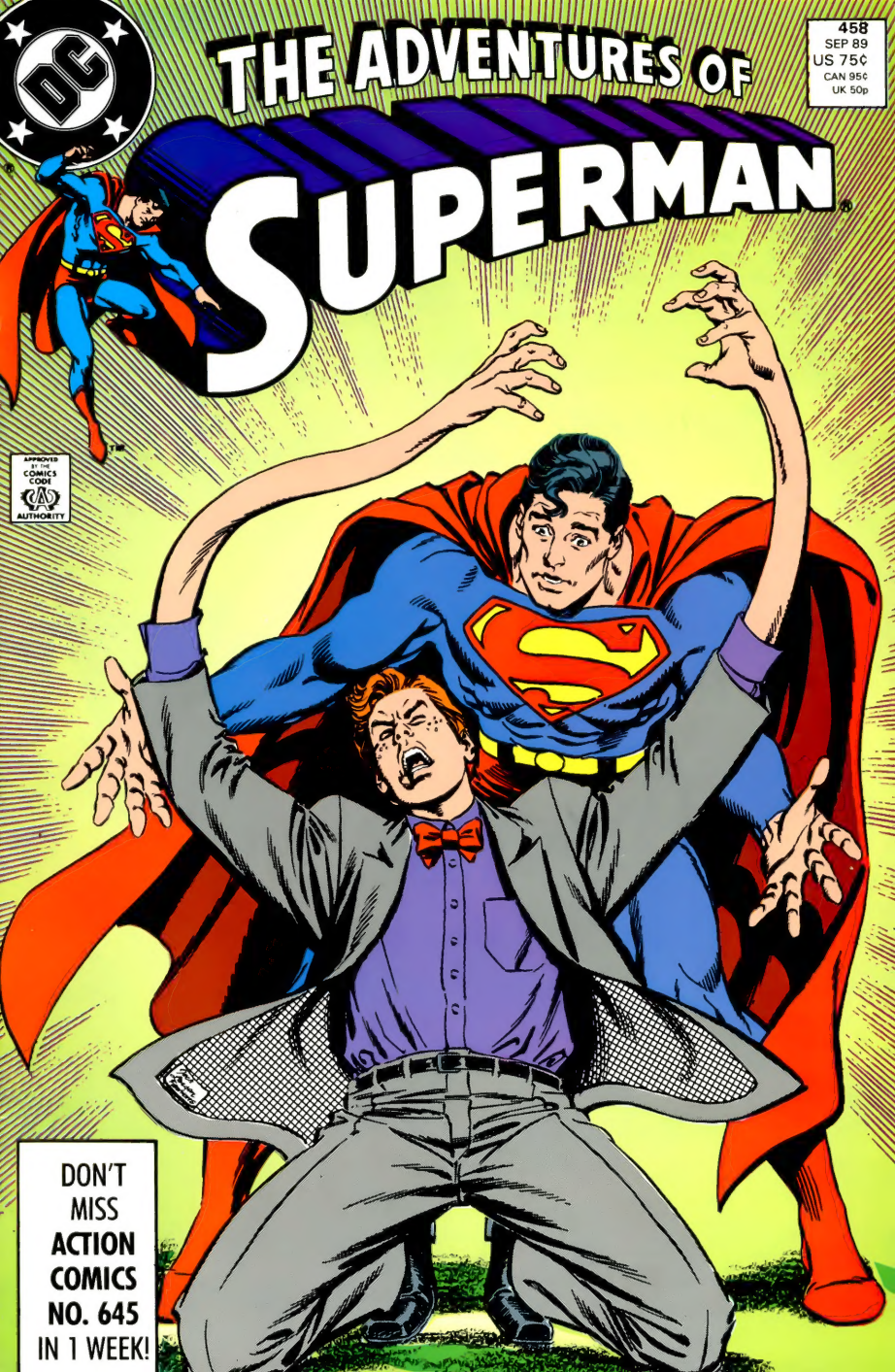
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